

Expression of human telomerase reverse transcriptase gene and protein, and of estrogen and progesterone receptors, in breast tumors: Preliminary data from neo-adjuvant chemotherapy.

Kamori M, Izumiyama N, Hashimoto M, Nakamura K, Okano T, Kurabayashi R, Naoki H, Honma N, Ogawa T, Kaminishi M, Takubo K.

Division of Breast and Endocrine Surgery, Department of Surgery, Graduate School of Medicine, The University of Tokyo, Bunkyo-ku, Tokyo 113-8655, Japan. kanmori-dis@umin.ac.jp.

Human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT), the catalytic subunit of telomerase, is very closely associated with telomerase activity. Telomerase has been implicated in cellular immortalization and carcinogenesis. In situ detection of hTERT will aid in determining the localization of telomerase-positive cells. The aim of this study was to detect expression of hTERT mRNA, hTERT protein, estrogen receptor (ER) and progesterone receptor (PR) in paraffin-embedded breast tissue samples and to investigate the relationship between hTERT expression and various clinicopathological parameters in breast tumorigenesis. We used in situ hybridization (ISH) to examine hTERT gene expression, and immunohistochemistry (IHC) to examine expression of hTERT protein, ER and PR, in breast tissues including 64 adenocarcinomas, 2 phyllode tumors and their adjacent normal breast tissues. hTERT gene expression was detected by ISH in 56 (88%) carcinomas, but in neither of the 2 phyllode tumors. hTERT protein expression was detected by IHC in 52 (81%) carcinomas, but in neither of the 2 phyllode tumors. Moreover, ER and PR were expressed in 42 (66%) and 42 (66%) carcinomas, respectively, and in neither of the 2 phyllode tumors. In 4 cases of breast carcinoma that strongly expressed hTERT gene and protein before treatment, neo-adjuvant chemotherapy led to disappearance of gene and protein expression in all cases. There was a strong correlation between detection of hTERT gene expression by ISH and of hTERT protein by ICH in tissue specimens from breast tumors. These results suggest that detection of hTERT protein by ICH can be used to distinguish breast cancers as a potential diagnostic and therapeutic marker.

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Expression of the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway and muscle loss in experimental cancer cachexia.

Khal J, Wyke SM, Russell ST, Hine AV, Tisdale MJ.

Pharmaceutical Sciences Research Institute, Aston University, Birmingham, UK.

Muscle protein degradation is thought to play a major role in muscle atrophy in cancer cachexia. To investigate the importance of the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway, which has been suggested to be the main degradative pathway mediating progressive protein loss in cachexia, the expression of mRNA for proteasome subunits C2 and C5 as well as the ubiquitin-conjugating enzyme, E2(14k), has been determined in gastrocnemius and pectoral muscles of mice bearing the MAC16 adenocarcinoma, using competitive quantitative reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction. Protein levels of proteasome subunits and E2(14k) were determined by immunoblotting, to ensure changes in mRNA were reflected in changes in protein expression. Muscle weights correlated linearly with weight loss during the course of the study. There was a good correlation between expression of C2 and E2(14k) mRNA and protein levels in gastrocnemius muscle with increases of 6-8-fold for C2 and two-fold for E2(14k) between 12 and 20% weight loss, followed by a decrease in expression at weight losses of 25-27%, although loss of muscle protein continued. In contrast, expression of C5 mRNA only increased two-fold and was elevated similarly at all weight losses between 7.5 and 27%. Both proteasome functional activity, and proteasome-specific tyrosine release as a measure of total protein degradation was also maximal at 18-20% weight loss and decreased at higher weight loss. Proteasome expression in pectoral muscle followed a different pattern with increases in C2 and C5 and E2(14k) mRNA only being seen at weight losses above 17%, although muscle loss increased progressively with increasing weight loss. These results suggest that activation of the ubiquitin-proteasome pathway plays a major role in protein loss in gastrocnemius muscle, up to 20% weight loss, but that other factors such as depression in protein synthesis may play a more important role at higher weight loss.

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Selective apoptosis of natural killer-cell tumours by l-asparaginase.

Ando M, Sugimoto K, Kitoh T, Sasaki M, Mukai K, Ando J, Egashira M, Schuster SM, Oshimi K.

Department of Haematology, Juntendo University School of Medicine, Tokyo, Japan.

We examined the effectiveness of various anti-tumour agents to natural killer (NK)-cell tumour cell lines and samples, which are generally resistant to chemotherapy, using flow cytometric terminal deoxynucleotidyl transferase-mediated dUTP-biotin nick end-labelling (TUNEL) assay. Although NK-YS and NK-92 were highly resistant to various anti-tumour agents, l-asparaginase induced apoptosis in these two NK-cell lines. NK-cell leukaemia/lymphoma and acute lymphoblastic leukaemia (ALL) samples were selectively sensitive to l-asparaginase and to doxorubicin (DXR) respectively. Samples of chronic NK lymphocytosis, an NK-cell disorder with an indolent clinical course, were resistant to both drugs. Our study clearly separated two major categories of NK-cell disorders and ALL according to the sensitivity to DXR and l-asparaginase. We examined asparagine synthetase levels by real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction (RQ-PCR) and immunostaining in these samples. At least in nasal-type NK-cell lymphoma, there was a good correlation among asparagine synthetase expression, in vitro sensitivity and clinical response to l-asparaginase. In aggressive NK-cell leukaemia, although asparagine synthetase expression was high at both mRNA and protein levels, l-asparaginase induced considerable apoptosis. Furthermore, samples of each disease entity occupied a distinct area in two-dimensional plotting with asparagine synthetase mRNA level (RQ-PCR) and in vitro l-asparaginase sensitivity (TUNEL assay). We confirmed rather specific anti-tumour activity of l-asparaginase against NK-cell tumours in vitro, which provides an experimental background to the clinical use of l-asparaginase for NK-cell tumours.

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P-cadherin overexpression is an indicator of clinical outcome in invasive breast carcinomas and is associated with CDH3 promoter hypomethylation.

Paredes J, Albergaria A, Oliveira JT, Jeronimo C, Milanezi F, Schmitt FC.

Institute of Pathology and Molecular Immunology of Porto University (IPATIMUP),
Braga, Portugal. jparedes@ipatimup.pt

PURPOSE: P-cadherin overexpression has been reported in breast carcinomas, where it was associated with proliferative high-grade histological tumors. This study aimed to analyze P-cadherin expression in invasive breast cancer and to correlate it with tumor markers, pathologic features, and patient survival. Another purpose was to evaluate the P-cadherin promoter methylation pattern as the molecular mechanism underlying this gene regulation. **EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN:** Using a series of invasive breast carcinomas, P-cadherin expression was evaluated and correlated with histologic grade, estrogen receptor, MIB-1, and p53 and c-erbB-2 expression. In order to assess whether P-cadherin expression was associated with changes in CDH3 promoter methylation, we studied the methylation status of a gene 5'-flanking region in these same carcinomas. This analysis was also done for normal tissue and for a breast cancer cell line treated with a demethylating agent. **RESULTS:** P-cadherin expression showed a strong correlation with high histologic grade, increased proliferation, c-erbB-2 and p53 expression, lack of estrogen receptor, and poor patient survival. This overexpression can be regulated by gene promoter methylation because the 5-Aza-2'-deoxycytidine treatment of MCF-7/AZ cells increased P-cadherin mRNA and protein levels. Additionally, we found that 71% of P-cadherin-negative cases showed promoter methylation, whereas 65% of positive ones were unmethylated ($P = 0.005$). The normal P-cadherin-negative breast epithelial cells showed consistent CDH3 promoter methylation. **CONCLUSIONS:** P-cadherin expression was strongly associated with tumor aggressiveness, being a good indicator of clinical outcome. Moreover, the aberrant expression of P-cadherin in breast cancer might be regulated by gene promoter hypomethylation.

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[Expression of human telomerase reverse transcriptase in cervix cancer and its significance]

[Article in Chinese]

Xi L, Zhu T, Wu P, Xu Q, Huang L, Li KZ, Lu YP, Ma D.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Tongji Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan 430030, China.

OBJECTIVE: To investigate the expression of human telomerase reverse transcriptase (hTERT) mRNA and protein in cervix cancer, cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN) and normal cervix. **METHODS:** Expression of hTERT mRNA and the other two subunits of telomerase, human telomerase RNA component (hTR), human telomerase-associated protein (hTP1) was determined by RT-PCR in 3 cervix cancer cell lines, 2 diploid cell lines, 38 cases of cervix cancer, 16 cases of CIN and 20 cases of normal cervix.

Telomerase activity was also examined by telomeric repeat amplification protocol enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (TRAP-ELISA). Expression of hTERT protein was detected in all the cell lines and 101 cases of paraffinized cervix tissue sections.

RESULTS: hTERT mRNA expression was detected in all of the three cervix cancer cell lines, 81.6% of cervix cancer, 37.5% of CIN, 5.0% of normal cervix, while in neither of the two diploid cell lines. The other two subunits of telomerase were prevalently expressed in all of the cell lines and most cervix tissues. There was a strong correlation between hTERT mRNA expression and telomerase activity. Immunostaining also revealed that hTERT protein was expressed in all three cervix cancer cell lines, 65.5% of cervix cancer, 28.0% of CIN and 4.8% of normal cervix. **CONCLUSION:** Up-regulation of hTERT may play an important role in the development of CIN and cervix cancer, hTERT could be used as an early diagnostic biomarker for cervix cancer.

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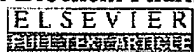
Multidrug resistance phosphoglycoprotein (ABCB1) in the mouse placenta: fetal protection.

Kalabis GM, Kostaki A, Andrews MH, Petropoulos S, Gibb W, Matthews SG.

Department of Physiology, University of Toronto, Ontario, Canada.

The multidrug resistance phosphoglycoprotein ATP-binding cassette subfamily B (ABCB1) actively extrudes a range of structurally and functionally diverse xenobiotics as well as glucocorticoids. ABCB1 is present in many cancer cell types as well as in normal tissues. Although it has been localized within the mouse placenta, virtually nothing is known about its regulation. In the mouse, two genes, *Abcb1a* and *Abcb1b*, encode ABCB1. We hypothesized that there are changes in placental *Abcb1a* and *Abcb1b* gene expression and ABCB1 protein levels during pregnancy. Using in situ hybridization, we demonstrated that *Abcb1b* mRNA is the predominant placental isoform and that there are profound gestational changes in the expression of both *Abcb1a* and *Abcb1b* mRNA. Placentas from pregnant mice were analyzed between Embryonic Days (E) 9.5 and 19 (term approximately 19.5d). *Abcb1b* mRNA was detected in invading trophoblast cells by E9.5, peaked within the placental labyrinth at E12.5, and then progressively decreased toward term ($P < 0.0001$). *Abcb1a* mRNA, although lower than that of *Abcb1b* at midgestation, paralleled changes in *Abcb1b* mRNA. Changes in *Abcb1* mRNA were reflected by a significant decrease in ABCB1 protein ($P < 0.05$). A strong correlation existed between placental *Abcb1b* mRNA and maternal progesterone concentrations, indicating a potential role of progesterone in regulation of placental *Abcb1b* mRNA. In conclusion, there are dramatic decreases in *Abcb1a* and *Abcb1b* mRNA and in ABCB1 at the maternal-fetal interface over the second half of gestation, suggesting that the fetus may become increasingly susceptible to the influences of xenobiotics and natural steroids in the maternal circulation.

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Restored expression and activity of organic ion transporters rOAT1, rOAT3 and rOCT2 after hyperuricemia in the rat kidney.

Habu Y, Yano I, Okuda M, Fukatsu A, Inui K.

Department of Pharmacy, Kyoto University Hospital, Faculty of Medicine, Kyoto University, Sakyo-ku, Kyoto 606-8507, Japan.

We previously reported that in hyperuricemic rats, renal impairment occurred and organic ion transport activity decreased, accompanied with a specific decrease in the expression of rat organic anion transporters, rOAT1 and rOAT3, and organic cation transporter, rOCT2. In the present study, we investigated the reversibility of the organic ion transport activity and expression of organic ion transporters (slc22a) during recovery from hyperuricemia. Hyperuricemia was induced by the administration of a chow containing uric acid and oxonic acid, an inhibitor of uric acid metabolism. Four days after discontinuance of the chow, the plasma uric acid concentration returned to the normal level, and renal functions such as creatinine clearance and BUN levels were restored, although the recovery of tubulointerstitial injury was varied in sites of the kidney. Basolateral uptake of p-aminohippurate (PAH) and tetraethylammonium (TEA), and both protein and mRNA levels of rOAT1, rOAT3 and rOCT2 in the kidney gradually improved during 14 days of recovery from hyperuricemia. Basolateral PAH transport showed a higher correlation with the protein level of rOAT1 ($r(2)=0.80$) than rOAT3 ($r(2)=0.34$), whereas basolateral TEA transport showed a strong correlation with rOCT2 protein ($r(2)=0.91$). The plasma testosterone concentration, which is a dominant factor in the regulation of rOCT2, was gradually restored during the recovery from hyperuricemia, but the correlation between the plasma testosterone level and rOCT2 protein expression in the kidney was not significant. These results suggest that the regulation of organic ion transporters, rOAT1, rOAT3 and rOCT2, by hyperuricemia is reversible, and the organic ion transport activity restores according to the expression levels of these transporters.

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Silencing of the thrombomodulin gene in human malignant melanoma.

Furuta J, Kaneda A, Umebayashi Y, Otsuka F, Sugimura T, Ushijima T.

Carcinogenesis Division, National Cancer Center Research Institute, Tokyo, Japan.

The loss of thrombomodulin (TM) expression is associated with tumour growth, infiltration and lymph node metastasis in human tumours. In melanoma cell lines, TM is reported to mediate cell adhesion, and its introduction into TM-negative melanoma cell lines suppresses their growth. In this study, we analysed TM expression in surgical melanoma specimens and the role of its promoter methylation in the loss of its expression. In 15 (75%) of the 20 specimens (five from a primary site and 15 from metastatic sites), melanoma cells lacked TM immunoreactivity. Methylation of the TM promoter region was detected in 10 (67%) of the 15 TM-negative specimens by methylation-specific polymerase chain reaction, whereas methylation was detected in two (40%) of the five TM-positive specimens. In cell lines, complete methylation of the TM promoter CpG island was detected in six (46%) of 13 melanoma cell lines, whereas no methylation was detected in two cultured normal melanocytes. There was a good correlation between the methylated status of the CpG island and the loss of TM messenger RNA (mRNA) expression. Treatment of melanoma cell lines with a demethylating agent, 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine, induced demethylation of the promoter CpG island and the restoration of mRNA and protein expression. These findings suggest that most human melanomas lack TM expression, and that methylation of the promoter CpG island is one of the mechanisms responsible.

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Enhanced expressions of arachidonic acid-sensitive tandem-pore domain potassium channels in rat experimental acute cerebral ischemia.

Li ZB, Zhang HX, Li LL, Wang XL.

Institute of Materia Medica, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences and Peking Union Medical College, Beijing 100050, China.

To further explore the pathophysiological significance of arachidonic acid-sensitive potassium channels, RT-PCR and Western blot analysis were used to investigate the expression changes of TREK channels in cortex and hippocampus in rat experimental acute cerebral ischemia in this study. Results showed that TREK-1 and TRAAK mRNA in cortex, TREK-1 and TREK-2 mRNA in hippocampus showed significant increases 2 h after middle cerebral artery occlusion (MCAO). While the mRNA expression levels of the all three channel subtypes increased significantly 24 h after MCAO in cortex and hippocampus. At the same time, the protein expressions of all the three channel proteins showed significant increase 24 h after MCAO in cortex and hippocampus, but only TREK-1 showed increased expression 2 h after MCAO in cortex and hippocampus. Immunohistochemical experiments verified that all the three channel proteins had higher expression levels in cortical and hippocampal neurons 24 h after MCAO. These results suggested a strong correlation between TREK channels and acute cerebral ischemia. TREK channels might provide a neuroprotective mechanism in the pathological process.

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Alteration of frizzled expression in renal cell carcinoma.

Janssens N, Andries L, Janicot M, Perera T, Bakker A.

Department of Biochemistry, University of Antwerp, Wilrijk, Belgium.
njansse9@prdbe.jnj.com

To evaluate the involvement of frizzled receptors (Fzds) in oncogenesis, we investigated mRNA expression levels of several human Fzds in more than 30 different human tumor samples and their corresponding (matched) normal tissue samples, using real-time quantitative PCR. We observed that the mRNA level of Fzd5 was markedly increased in 8 of 11 renal carcinoma samples whilst Fzd8 mRNA was increased in 7 of 11 renal carcinoma samples. Western blot analysis of crude membrane fractions revealed that Fzd5 protein expression in the matched tumor/normal kidney samples correlated with the observed mRNA level. Wnt/beta-catenin signaling pathway activation was confirmed by the increased expression of a set of target genes. Using a kidney tumor tissue array, Fzd5 protein expression was investigated in a broader panel of kidney tumor samples. Fzd5 membrane staining was detected in 30% of clear cell carcinomas, and there was a strong correlation with nuclear cyclin D1 staining in the samples. Our data suggested that altered expression of certain members of the Fzd family, and their downstream targets, could provide alternative mechanisms leading to activation of the Wnt signaling pathway in renal carcinogenesis. Fzd family members may have a role as a biomarker.

PMID: 15557753 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Localization of tissue inhibitor of metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1) in human colorectal adenoma and adenocarcinoma.

Holten-Andersen MN, Hansen U, Brunner N, Nielsen HJ, Illemann M, Nielsen BS.

The Finsen Laboratory, Rigshospitalet, Denmark.

Tissue inhibitor of matrix metalloproteinases 1 (TIMP-1) inhibits the proteolytic activity of matrix metalloproteinases and hereby prevents cancer invasion. However, TIMP-1 also possesses other functions such as inhibition of apoptosis, induction of malignant transformation and stimulation of cell-growth. We have previously demonstrated that TIMP-1 is elevated in blood from colorectal cancer patients and that high TIMP-1 levels predict poor prognosis. To clarify the role of TIMP-1 in colorectal tumorigenesis, the expression pattern of TIMP-1 in benign and malignant colorectal tumors was studied. In all of 24 cases of colorectal adenocarcinoma TIMP-1 mRNA was detected by in situ hybridization. In all cases TIMP-1 expression was found in fibroblast-like cells located at the invasive front but was seen only sporadically in normal mucosa. No TIMP-1 mRNA was seen in any of the cases in benign or malignant epithelial cells, in vascular cells or smooth muscle cells. Comparison of sections processed for TIMP-1 in situ hybridization with sections immunohistochemically stained with antibodies against TIMP-1 showed good correlation between TIMP-1 mRNA and immunoreactivity. Combining TIMP-1 in situ hybridization with immunohistochemical staining for alpha-smooth muscle actin or CD68 showed TIMP-1 mRNA in myofibroblasts but not in macrophages. TIMP-1 mRNA was detected in 2 of 7 adenomatous polyps in the adenoma area: in both cases associated with focal stromal inflammation at the epithelial-stromal interface. In conclusion, TIMP-1 expression is a rare event in benign human colon tissue but is highly expressed by myofibroblasts in association with invading colon cancer cells.

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Cell type-specific occurrence of caveolin-1alpha and -1beta in the lung caused by expression of distinct mRNAs.

Kogo H, Aiba T, Fujimoto T.

Department of Anatomy and Molecular Cell Biology, Nagoya University Graduate School of Medicine, Showa-ku, Nagoya 466-8550, Japan. hkogo@fujita-hu.ac.jp

Two isoforms of caveolin-1, alpha and beta, had been thought to be generated by alternative translation initiation of an mRNA (FL mRNA), but we showed previously that a variant mRNA (5'V mRNA) encodes the beta isoform specifically. In the present study, we demonstrated strong correlation between the expression of the caveolin-1 protein isoforms and mRNA variants in culture cells and the developing mouse lung. The alpha isoform protein and FL mRNA were expressed constantly during the lung development, whereas expression of the beta isoform protein and 5'V mRNA was negligible in the fetal lung before 17.5 days post coitum, and markedly increased simultaneously at 18.5 days post coitum, when the alveolar type I cells started to differentiate. Immunohistochemical analysis revealed the cell type-specific expression of the two isoforms; the alveolar type I cell expresses the beta isoform predominantly, while the endothelium harbors the alpha isoform chiefly. The mutually exclusive expression of caveolin-1 isoforms was verified by Western blotting of the selective plasma membrane preparation obtained from the endothelial and alveolar epithelial cells. The present result indicates that the two caveolin-1 isoforms are generated from distinct mRNAs in vivo and that their production is regulated independently at the transcriptional level. The result also suggests that the alpha and beta isoforms of caveolin-1 may have unique physiological functions.

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Tightly regulated and inducible expression of a yoked hormone-receptor complex in HEK 293 cells.

Meehan TP, Puett D, Narayan P.

Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602, USA.

We have previously reported the construction of a constitutively active luteinizing hormone receptor by covalently linking a fused heterodimeric hormone to the extracellular domain of the G protein-coupled receptor. This yoked hormone-receptor complex (YHR) was found to produce high levels of cAMP in the absence of exogenous hormone. Stable lines expressing YHR were generated in HEK 293 cells to obtain lines with different expression levels; however, in a relatively short time of continued passage, it was found that YHR expression was greatly reduced. Herein, we describe the development of clonal lines of HEK 293 cells in which the expression of YHR is under the control of a tetracycline-regulated system. Characterization of clonal lines revealed tight control of YHR expression both by dose and time of incubation with doxycycline. These experiments demonstrated a good correlation between expression levels of the receptor and basal cAMP production. Moreover, the reduction in receptor expression following doxycycline removal revealed that YHR mRNA and protein decayed at similar rates, again suggesting a strong linkage between mRNA and protein levels. The controlled expression of YHR in this cell system will allow for a more detailed analysis of the signaling properties associated with constitutive receptor activation and may prove to be advantageous in developmental studies with transgenic animals.

PMID: 14766006 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

An increased high-mobility group A2 expression level is associated with malignant phenotype in pancreatic exocrine tissue.

Abe N, Watanabe T, Suzuki Y, Matsumoto N, Masaki T, Mori T, Sugiyama M, Chiappetta G, Fusco A, Atomi Y.

First Department of Surgery, Kyorin University School of Medicine, 6-20-2, Shinkawa, Mitaka, Tokyo 181-8611, Japan. abenbtg@kyorin-u.ac.jp

The altered form of the high-mobility group A2 (HMGA2) gene is somehow related to the generation of human benign and malignant tumours of mesenchymal origin. However, only a few data on the expression of HMGA2 in malignant tumour originating from epithelial tissue are available. In this study, we examined the HMGA2 expression level in pancreatic carcinoma, and investigated whether alterations in the HMGA2 expression level are associated with a malignant phenotype in pancreatic tissue. High-mobility group A2 mRNA and protein expression was determined in eight surgically resected specimens of non-neoplastic tissue (six specimens of normal pancreatic tissue and two of chronic pancreatitis tissue) and 27 pancreatic carcinomas by highly sensitive reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) techniques and immunohistochemical staining, respectively. Reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction analysis revealed the expression of the HMGA2 gene in non-neoplastic pancreatic tissue, although its expression level was significantly lower than that in carcinoma. Immunohistochemical analysis indicated that the presence of the HMGA2 gene in non-neoplastic pancreatic tissue observed in RT-PCR reflects its abundant expression in islet cells, together with its focal expression in duct epithelial cells. Intense and multifocal or diffuse HMGA2 immunoreactivity was noted in all the pancreatic carcinoma examined. A strong correlation between HMGA2 overexpression and the diagnosis of carcinoma was statistically verified. Based on these findings, we propose that an increased expression level of the HMGA2 protein is closely associated with the malignant phenotype in the pancreatic exocrine system, and accordingly, HMGA2 could serve as a potential diagnostic molecular marker for distinguishing pancreatic malignant cells from non-neoplastic pancreatic exocrine cells.

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Butyrate-induced reversal of dexamethasone resistance in autonomous rat Nb2 lymphoma cells.

Buckley AR, Krumenacker JS, Buckley DJ, Leff MA, Magnuson NS, Reed JC, Miyashita T, de Jong G, Gout PW.

Department of Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of North Dakota School of Medicine and Health Sciences, Grand Forks 58202-9037, USA.
abuckley@mail.med.und.nodak.edu

The parental rat Nb2 lymphoma is a prolactin (PRL)-dependent T cell line. Exposure of a PRL-independent subline, Nb2-SFJCD1, to sodium butyrate (NaBT) causes transient reversal of their growth factor-independent proliferation in association with constitutive expression of protooncogenes pim-1 and c-myc. In the present study, we investigated the effect of NaBT treatment on the sensitivity of Nb2-SFJCD1 cells to dexamethasone (DEX)-induced apoptosis. Pretreatment with NaBT (2 mM, 72 h) partially reversed resistance to apoptosis in Nb2-SFJCD1 cells exposed to DEX (100 nM) for 12 h, assessed by flow cytometric analyses of DNA fragmentation. However, the cytolytic effect of DEX was abrogated by PRL in a time- and concentration-dependent manner. Evaluation of apoptosis-associated gene expression in NaBT-pre-treated cultures incubated with DEX or DEX+PRL indicated that the apoptosis resistance did not stem from altered bcl-2 or bax expression. However, there was a strong correlation between the resistance to DEX-activated apoptosis and their enhanced expression of pim-1 mRNA and protein. The results show that it is possible to reverse DEX-induced apoptosis of Nb2 pre-T cells and suggest the pim-1 gene product has an important role as a suppressor of this process, perhaps functioning as a mediator of PRL action.

PMID: 14646523 [PubMed]

MetaPress

GLUT1 messenger RNA and protein induction relates to the malignant transformation of cervical cancer.

Rudlowski C, Becker AJ, Schroder W, Rath W, Buttner R, Moser M.

Dept of Gynecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital Heidelberg, Vossstr 7-9, D-69115 Heidelberg, Germany.

We studied whether induction of glucose transporters (GLUTs) 1 to 4 correlates with human papillomavirus (HPV)-dependent malignant transformation of cervical epithelium. Tissue samples of cervical intraepithelial neoplasia (CIN; grades 1 to 3), invasive carcinomas, and lymph node metastasis were examined. HPV typing was performed. Tissue sections were immunostained with GLUT1 to GLUT4 antibodies. Messenger RNA (mRNA) in situ hybridization confirmed GLUT1 protein expression. Weak expression of GLUT1 was found in nondysplastic HPV-positive and HPV-negative epithelium; significant expression was observed in preneoplastic lesions, correlating with the degree of dysplasia. In CIN 3 high-risk HPV lesions, cervical cancer, and metastasis, GLUT1 was expressed at highest levels with a strong correlation of GLUT1 mRNA and protein expression. Immunostains for GLUT2 to GLUT4 were negative. Cervical tumor cells respond to enhanced glucose utilization by up-regulation of GLUT1. The strong induction of GLUT1 mRNA and protein in HPV-positive CIN 3 lesions suggests GLUT1 overexpression as an early event in cervical neoplasia. GLUT1 is potentially relevant as a diagnostic tool and glucose metabolism as a therapeutic target in cervical cancer.

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Downregulation of ENaC activity and expression by TNF-alpha in alveolar epithelial cells.

Dagenais A, Frechette R, Yamagata Y, Yamagata T, Carmel JF, Clermont ME, Brochiero E, Masse C, Berthiaume Y.

Centre de recherche, CHUM-Hotel-Dieu, 3850 St-Urbain, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H2W 1T7. andre.dagenais.chum@ssss.gouv.qc.ca

Sodium absorption by an amiloride-sensitive channel is the main driving force of lung liquid clearance at birth and lung edema clearance in adulthood. In this study, we tested whether tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha), a proinflammatory cytokine involved in several lung pathologies, could modulate sodium absorption in cultured alveolar epithelial cells. We found that TNF-alpha decreased the expression of the alpha-, beta-, and gamma-subunits of epithelial sodium channel (ENaC) mRNA to 36, 43, and 16% of the controls after 24-h treatment and reduced to 50% the amount of alpha-ENaC protein in these cells. There was no impact, however, on alpha(1) and beta(1) Na(+)-K(+)-ATPase mRNA expression. Amiloride-sensitive current and ouabain-sensitive Rb(+) uptake were reduced, respectively, to 28 and 39% of the controls. A strong correlation was found at different TNF-alpha concentrations between the decrease of amiloride-sensitive current and alpha-ENaC mRNA expression. All these data show that TNF-alpha, a proinflammatory cytokine present during lung infection, has a profound influence on the capacity of alveolar epithelial cells to transport sodium.

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Adiposity elevates plasma MCP-1 levels leading to the increased CD11b-positive monocytes in mice.

Takahashi K, Mizuarai S, Araki H, Mashiko S, Ishihara A, Kanatani A, Itadani H, Kotani H.

Banyu Tsukuba Research Institute in collaboration with Merck Research Laboratories, Tsukuba, Ibaraki 300-2611, Japan.

Obesity is currently considered as an epidemic in the western world, and it represents a major risk factor for life-threatening diseases such as heart attack, stroke, diabetes, and cancer. Taking advantage of DNA microarray technology, we tried to identify the molecules explaining the relationship between obesity and vascular disorders, comparing mRNA expression of about 12,000 genes in white adipose tissue between normal, high fat diet-induced obesity (DIO) and d-Trp34 neuropeptide Y-induced obesity in mice. Expression of monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1) mRNA displayed a 7.2-fold increase in obese mice as compared with normal mice, leading to substantially elevated MCP-1 protein levels in adipocytes. MCP-1 levels in plasma were also increased in DIO mice, and a strong correlation between plasma MCP-1 levels and body weight was identified. We also showed that elevated MCP-1 protein levels in plasma increased the CD11b-positive monocyte/macrophage population in DIO mice. Furthermore, infusion of MCP-1 into lean mice increased the CD11b-positive monocyte population without inducing changes in body weight. Given the importance of MCP-1 in activation of monocytes and subsequent atherosclerotic development, these results suggest a novel role of adiposity in the development of vascular disorders.

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Relationship between cyclin D1 and p21(Waf1/Cip1) during differentiation of human myeloid leukemia cell lines.

Ullmannova V, Stockbauer P, Hradcova M, Soucek J, Haskovec C.

Department of Molecular Genetics, Institute of Hematology and Blood Transfusion, U Nemocnice 1, 128 20 Prague 2, Czech Republic. ullman@uhkt.cz

Expression of cell cycle-regulating genes was studied in human myeloid leukemia cell lines ML-1, ML-2 and ML-3 during induction of differentiation in vitro. Myelomonocytic differentiation was induced by phorbol ester (12-o-Tetradecanoyl-phorbol-13-acetate, TPA), tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNFalpha) or interferon gamma (INFgamma), or their combination. Differentiation (with the exception of TNFalpha alone) was accompanied by inhibition of DNA synthesis and cell cycle arrest. Inhibition of proliferation was associated with a decrease in the expression of cdc25A and cdc25B, cdk6 and Ki-67 genes, and with increased p21(Waf1/Cip1) gene expression, as measured by comparative RT-PCR. Expression of the following genes was not changed after induction of differentiation: cyclin A1, cyclin D3, cyclin E1 and p27(Kip1). Surprisingly, cyclin D1 expression was upregulated after induction by TPA, TNFalpha with IFNgamma or BA. Cyclin D2 was upregulated only after induction by BA. The results of the expression of the tested genes obtained by comparative RT-PCR were confirmed by quantitative real-time (RQ) RT-PCR and Western blotting. Quantitative RT-PCR showed as much as a 288-fold increase of cyclin D1 specific mRNA after a 24h induction by TPA. The upregulation of cyclin D1 in differentiating cells seems to be compensated by the upregulation of p21(Waf1/Cip1). These results, besides others, point to a strong correlation between the expression of cyclin D1 and p21(Waf1/Cip1) on the one hand and differentiation on the other hand in human myeloid leukemic cells and reflect a rather complicated network regulating proliferation and differentiation of leukemic cells.

PMID: 12921950 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Comment in:

- [Hum Pathol. 2003 Jul;34\(7\):635-8.](#)

Human Pathology

Molecular and immunohistochemical analysis of HER2/neu oncogene in synovial sarcoma.

Nuciforo PG, Pellegrini C, Fasani R, Maggioni M, Coggi G, Parafioriti A, Bosari S.

Department of Medicine, Surgery and Dental Sciences, University of Milan, A.O.S. Paolo and IRCCS Ospedale Maggiore, Italy.

Amplification and/or overexpression of HER2/neu have been documented in many types of epithelial tumor and recently has been reported in sarcomas, particularly in osteosarcomas. But the role of HER2/neu alterations in soft tissue tumors remains poorly understood. Thus the present study investigates the expression of HER2/neu in 13 patients with synovial sarcoma (SS). In this study, HER2/neu mRNA levels were measured in frozen tissue samples using a real-time reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction assay; protein expression was assessed by immunohistochemistry using an anti-HER2/neu polyclonal antibody. Six normal skeletal muscle specimens were used to establish basal levels of HER2/neu mRNA. HER2/neu transcripts were detected in all normal tissues and SSs. Four of 13 sarcomas (31%) demonstrated HER2/neu mRNA levels above the mean value, whereas 3 tumors (23%) displayed HER2/neu protein overexpression. Both membranous and cytoplasmic patterns of immunostaining were observed, and a strong correlation was found between protein expression and mRNA level ($P = 0.01$). Increased HER2/neu mRNA levels were significantly associated with a lower risk of developing recurrences ($P = 0.02$). Moreover, none of the patients with HER2/neu overexpression developed metastasis. Our data demonstrate that HER2/neu is expressed in SSs and that both membrane and cytoplasmic HER2/neu expression correlate with mRNA levels. Our results show that the presence of increased levels of HER2/neu in SSs is associated with a more favorable clinical course. Further studies are needed to assess the role of this oncogene in SSs and to evaluate the application of inhibitory humanized monoclonal antibodies in the treatment regimens for this malignancy.

PMID: 12874758 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Tissue plasminogen activator induced by dengue virus infection of human endothelial cells.

Huang YH, Lei HY, Liu HS, Lin YS, Chen SH, Liu CC, Yeh TM.

Department of Microbiology and Immunology, College of Medicine, National Cheng Kung University, Tainan, Taiwan, ROC.

Dengue hemorrhagic fever and dengue shock syndrome (DHF/DSS) are severe complications of dengue virus (DV) infection. However, the pathogenesis of hemorrhage induced by dengue virus infection is poorly understood. Since endothelial cells play a pivotal role in the regulation of hemostasis, we studied the effect of DV infection on the production of tissue plasminogen activator (tPA) and plasminogen activator inhibitor 1 (PAI-1) in vitro using both primary isolated endothelial cells, human umbilical cord veins cells, and a human microvascular endothelial cell line. DV infection significantly induced the secretion of tPA but not PAI-1 of human endothelial cells. In addition, tPA mRNA of endothelial cells was induced by DV as demonstrated by RT-PCR. Antibody against IL-6 but not control antibody inhibited DV-induced tPA production of endothelial cells. Furthermore, a good correlation between sera levels of IL-6 and tPA was found in DHF but not DF patients. These results suggest that IL-6 can regulate DV-induced tPA production of endothelial cells, which may play important roles in the pathogenic development of DHF/DSS. Copyright 2003 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

PMID: 12794725 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Decreased uncoupling protein expression and intramyocytic triglyceride depletion in formerly obese subjects.

Mingrone G, Rosa G, Greco AV, Manco M, Vega N, Hesselink MK, Castagneto M, Schrauwen P, Vidal H.

Istituto di Clinica Medica and. Clinica Chirurgica and Centro CNR Fisiopatologia Shock, Università Cattolica S Cuore, Rome, Italy. gmingrone@rm.unicatt.it

OBJECTIVE: To examine the muscular uncoupling protein expression 2 (UCP2) and UCP3 gene expression in morbid obese subjects before and after bariatric surgery [bilio-pancreatic diversion (BPD)]. **RESEARCH METHODS AND PROCEDURES:** Eleven obese subjects (BMI = 49 ± 2 kg/m²) were studied before BPD and 24 months after BPD. Skeletal muscle UCP2 and UCP3 mRNA was measured using reverse transcriptase-competitive polymerase chain reaction and UCP3 protein by Western blotting. Intramyocytic triglycerides were quantified by high-performance liquid chromatography. Twenty-four-hour energy expenditure and respiratory quotient (RQ) were measured in a respiratory chamber. **RESULTS:** After BPD, the average weight loss was approximately 38%. Nonprotein RQ was increased in the postobese subjects (0.73 ± 0.00 vs. 0.83 ± 0.02 , $p < 0.001$). The intramyocytic triglyceride level dropped (3.66 ± 0.16 to 1.60 ± 0.29 mg/100 mg of fresh tissue, $p < 0.0001$) after BPD. Expression of UCP2 and UCP3 mRNA was significantly reduced (from $35.9 \pm 6.1\%$ to $18.6 \pm 4.5\%$ of cyclophilin, $p = 0.02$; from $60.2 \pm 14.0\%$ to $33.4 \pm 8.5\%$, $p = 0.03$; respectively). UCP3 protein content was also significantly reduced (272.19 ± 84.13 vs. 175.78 ± 60.31 , AU, $p = 0.04$). A multiple regression analysis ($R^2 = 0.90$) showed that IMTG levels ($p = 0.007$) represented the most powerful independent variable for predicting UCP3 variation. **DISCUSSION:** The strong correlation of UCP expression and decrease in IMTG levels suggests that triglyceride content plays an even more important role in the regulation of UCP gene expression than the circulating levels of free fatty acids or the achieved degree of weight loss.

PMID: 12740453 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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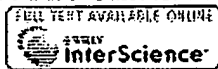
Modulation of gap junction mediated intercellular communication in TM3 Leydig cells.

Goldenberg RC, Fortes FS, Cristancho JM, Morales MM, Franci CR, Varanda WA, Campos de Carvalho AC.

Institute of Biophysics Carlos Chagas Filho, UFRJ, Brazil.

Long-term modulation of intercellular communication via gap junctions was investigated in TM3 Leydig cells, under low and high confluence states, and upon treatment of the cells for different times with activators of protein kinase A (PKA) and protein kinase C (PKC). Cells in low confluence were readily coupled, as determined by transfer of the dye Lucifer Yellow; on reaching confluence, the cells uncoupled. Western blots and RT-PCR revealed that connexin 43 (Cx43) was abundantly expressed in TM3 Leydig cells and its expression was decreased after the cells achieved confluence. Stimulation of PKA or PKC induced a decrease in cell-cell communication. Staurosporin, an inhibitor of protein kinases, increased coupling and was able to prevent and reverse the uncoupling actions of dibutyryl cAMP and 12-O-tetradecanoyl-phorbol-13-acetate (TPA). Under modulation by confluence, Cx43 was localized to the appositional membranes when cells were coupled and was mainly in the cytoplasm when they were uncoupled. In addition, cAMP and TPA reduced the surface membrane labeling for Cx43, whereas staurosporin increased it. These data show a strong correlation between functional coupling and the membrane distribution of Cx43, implying that this connexin has an important role in intercellular communication between TM3 cells. Furthermore, increased testosterone secretion in response to luteinizing hormone was accompanied by a decrease in intercellular communication, suggesting that gap junction mediated coupling may be a modulator of hormone secretion in TM3 cells.

PMID: 12740021 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Urokinase-mediated posttranscriptional regulation of urokinase-receptor expression in non small cell lung carcinoma.

Montuori N, Mattiello A, Mancini A, Taglialatela P, Caputi M, Rossi G, Ragno P.

Istituto di Endocrinologia ed Oncologia Sperimentale, Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Naples, Italy.

The urokinase-type plasminogen activator (uPA) and its cellular receptor (uPAR) are involved in the proteolytic cascade required for tumor cell dissemination and metastasis, and are highly expressed in many human tumors. We have recently reported that uPA, independently of its enzymatic activity, is able to increase the expression of its own receptor in uPAR-transfected kidney cells at a posttranscriptional level. In fact, uPA, upon binding uPAR, modulates the activity and/or the level of a mRNA-stabilizing factor that binds the coding region of uPAR-mRNA. We now investigate the relevance of uPA-mediated posttranscriptional regulation of uPAR expression in non small cell lung carcinoma (NSCLC), in which the up-regulation of uPAR expression is a prognostic marker. We show that uPA is able to increase uPAR expression, both at protein and mRNA levels, in primary cell cultures obtained from tumor and adjacent normal lung tissues of patients affected by NSCLC, thus suggesting that the enzyme can exert its effect in lung cells. We investigated the relationship among the levels of uPA, uPAR and uPAR-mRNA binding protein(s) in NSCLC. Lung tissue analysis of 35 NSCLC patients shows an increase of both uPA and uPAR in tumor tissues, as compared to adjacent normal tissues, in 27 patients (77%); 19 of these 27 patients also show a parallel increase of the level and/or binding activity of a cellular protein capable of binding the coding region of uPAR-mRNA. Therefore, in tumor tissues, a strong correlation is observed among these 3 parameters, uPA, uPAR and the level and/or the activity of a uPAR-mRNA binding protein. We then suggest that uPA regulates uPAR expression in NSCLC at a posttranscriptional level by increasing uPAR-stability through a cellular factor that binds the coding region of uPAR-mRNA. Copyright 2003 Wiley-Liss, Inc.

PMID: 12704669 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Retinal preconditioning and the induction of heat-shock protein 27.

Li Y, Roth S, Laser M, Ma JX, Crosson CE.

Department of Ophthalmology, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina 29425, USA.

PURPOSE: Brief periods of ischemia have been shown to protect the retina from potentially damaging periods of ischemia. This phenomenon has been termed ischemic preconditioning or ischemic tolerance. In the present study the cellular changes in levels of heat shock protein (Hsp)27, -70, and -90 mRNA and expression of Hsp in the rat retina associated with ischemic preconditioning were evaluated. **METHODS:** Unilateral retinal ischemia was created in Long-Evans and Sprague-Dawley rats for 5 minutes. Rats were then left for 1 hour to 7 days, to allow the retina to reperfuse. Retinas were dissected, the mRNA and protein isolated, and Northern and Western blot analyses conducted to detect changes in expression of Hsp27, -70, and -90. Immunohistochemical studies were used to identify retinal regions where Hsp changes occurred. Selected animals were subjected to a second ischemic event, 60 minutes in duration, to correlate the changes in expression of Hsp with functional protection of the retina from ischemic injury. **RESULTS:** In control and sham-treated animals retinal Hsp27, -70, and -90 mRNAs were detectable. Five hours after retinal preconditioning, levels of Hsp27 mRNA were elevated above control levels, and 24 hours later, mRNA levels increased 200% over basal levels. Hsp27 expression remained elevated for up to 72 hours and then began to return to control levels. Hsp27 protein levels were increased by 200% over basal levels 24 hours after retinal preconditioning, remained at this level for 72 hours, and then returned to control levels. In contrast, no consistent change in Hsp70 or -90 mRNA or protein levels was observed during the course of the study. Immunohistochemical studies demonstrated that the increase in expression of Hsp27 was localized to neuronal and non-neuronal cells in the inner layers of the retina. Electoretinography studies demonstrated a strong correlation between the protection of retinal function from ischemic injury and the expression of Hsp27. **CONCLUSIONS:** These results provide evidence that the induction of Hsp27 is a gene-specific event associated with ischemic preconditioning in the retina. This increase in expression of Hsp27 occurs in both neuronal and non-neuronal retinal cells, and appears to be one component of the neuroprotective events induced by ischemic preconditioning in the retina.

PMID: 12601062 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



The role of the epidermal growth factor receptor in sustaining neutrophil inflammation in severe asthma.

Hamilton LM, Torres-Lozano C, Puddicombe SM, Richter A, Kimber I, Dearman RJ, Vrugt B, Aalbers R, Holgate ST, Djukanovic R, Wilson SJ, Davies DE.

Division of Infection, Inflammation & Repair, School of Medicine, University of Southampton, UK.

BACKGROUND: The extent of epithelial injury in asthma is reflected by expression of the epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), which is increased in proportion to disease severity and is corticosteroid refractory. Although the EGFR is involved in epithelial growth and differentiation, it is unknown whether it also contributes to the inflammatory response in asthma. **OBJECTIVES:** Because severe asthma is characterized by neutrophilic inflammation, we investigated the relationship between EGFR activation and production of IL-8 and macrophage inhibitory protein-1 alpha (MIP-1alpha) using in vitro culture models and examined the association between epithelial expression of IL-8 and EGFR in bronchial biopsies from asthmatic subjects. **METHODS:** H292 or primary bronchial epithelial cells were exposed to EGF or H2O2 to achieve ligand-dependent and ligand-independent EGFR activation; IL-8 mRNA was measured by real-time PCR and IL-8 and MIP-1alpha protein measured by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). Epithelial IL-8 and EGFR expression in bronchial biopsies from asthmatic subjects was examined by immunohistochemistry and quantified by image analysis. **RESULTS:** Using H292 cells, EGF and H2O2 increased IL-8 gene expression and release and this was completely suppressed by the EGFR-selective tyrosine kinase inhibitor, AG1478, but only partially by dexamethasone. MIP-1alpha release was not stimulated by EGF, whereas H2O2 caused a 1.8-fold increase and this was insensitive to AG1478. EGF also significantly stimulated IL-8 release from asthmatic or normal primary epithelial cell cultures established from bronchial brushings. In bronchial biopsies, epithelial IL-8, MIP-1alpha, EGFR and submucosal neutrophils were all significantly increased in severe compared to mild disease and there was a strong correlation between EGFR and IL-8 expression ($r = 0.70$, $P < 0.001$). **CONCLUSIONS:** These results suggest that in severe asthma, epithelial damage has the potential to contribute to neutrophilic inflammation through enhanced production of IL-8 via EGFR-dependent mechanisms.

PMID: 12580917 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

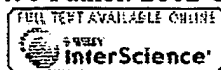
Specific inhibition of AQP1 water channels in isolated rat intrahepatic bile duct units by small interfering RNAs.

Splinter PL, Masyuk AI, LaRusso NF.

Center for Basic Research in Digestive Diseases, Division of Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Mayo Medical School, Clinic, and Foundation, Rochester, Minnesota 55905, USA.

Cholangiocytes express water channels (i.e. aquaporins (AQPs)), proteins that are increasingly recognized as important in water transport by biliary epithelia. However, direct functional studies demonstrating AQP-mediated water transport in cholangiocytes are limited, in part because of the lack of specific AQP inhibitors. To address this issue, we designed, synthesized, and utilized small interfering RNAs (siRNAs) selective for AQP1 and investigated their effectiveness in altering AQP1-mediated water transport in intrahepatic bile duct units (IBDUs) isolated from rat liver. Twenty-four hours after transfection of IBDUs with siRNAs targeting two different regions of the AQP1 transcript, both AQP1 mRNA and protein expression were inhibited by 76.6-92.0 and 57.9-79.4%, respectively. siRNAs containing the same percent of base pairs as the AQP1-siRNAs but in random sequence (i.e. scrambled siRNAs) had no effect. Suppression of AQP1 expression in cholangiocytes resulted in a decrease in water transport by IBDUs in response to both an inward osmotic gradient (200 mosm) or a secretory agonist (forskolin), the osmotic water permeability coefficient ($P(f)$) decreasing up to 58.8% and net water secretion ($J(v)$) decreasing up to 87%. A strong correlation between AQP1 protein expression and water transport in IBDUs transfected with AQP1-siRNAs was consistent with the decrease in water transport by IBDUs resulting from AQP1 gene silencing by AQP1-siRNAs. This study is the first to demonstrate the feasibility of utilizing siRNAs to specifically reduce the expression of AQPs in epithelial cells and provides direct evidence of the contribution of AQP1 to water transport by biliary epithelia.

PMID: 12468529 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Quantification of CK20 gene and protein expression in colorectal cancer by RT-PCR and immunohistochemistry reveals inter- and intratumour heterogeneity.

Lassmann S, Bauer M, Soong R, Schreglmann J, Tabiti K, Nahrig J, Ruger R, Hofer H, Werner M.

Pathologisches Institut, Universitätsklinikum Freiburg, Albertstrasse 19, 79104 Freiburg, Germany. lassmann@ukl.uni-freiburg.de

Cytokeratin 20 (CK20) is an epithelial protein expressed almost exclusively in the gastrointestinal (GI) tract and is widely used as immunohistochemical marker for routine diagnosis. In contrast, CK20 gene expression is not an established marker for the classification of tumours and the detection of disseminated cancer cells in colorectal cancer. Recently, real-time reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) has provided the means for reproducible and quantitative investigation of molecular markers. This report directly compares CK20 mRNA and protein expression in serial sections of archival, formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded (FFPE) colorectal adenocarcinomas. CK20 expression was detected by immunohistochemistry (IHC) in 60/63 (95.2%) cases, by conventional RT-PCR in 58/60 (96.7%) and by quantitative RT-PCR using the LightCycler (LightCycler is a trademark of a Member of the Roche Group) System in 29/32 (90.6%) microdissected cases, one case yielding variable results. Despite the high detection rate of all three techniques, marked heterogeneity of CK20 expression was seen between different cases and also within individual cases. CK20 expression profiles were not related to particular histopathological features of the tumours. A good correlation ($r = 0.8964$) was found between CK20 mRNA and protein expression by comparing quantitative RT-PCR with IHC in 32 cases. This was also true for selected heterogeneous tumour cells within individual cases. Both RT-PCR and IHC are therefore valuable tools for CK20 detection in colorectal adenocarcinoma, with real-time RT-PCR providing supplementary quantitative information. This suggests a promising supportive role for quantitative RT-PCR in molecular pathology. Copyright 2002 John Wiley & Sons, Ltd.

Publication Types:

- Evaluation Studies

PMID: 12237879 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Effect of duration of fixation on quantitative reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction analyses.

Macabeo-Ong M, Ginzinger DG, Dekker N, McMillan A, Regezi JA, Wong DT, Jordan RC.

Oral Pathology, Department of Stomatology, University of California San Francisco, California 94143-0424, USA.

Increasingly, there is the need to analyze gene expression in tumor tissues and correlate these findings with clinical outcome. Because there are few tissue banks containing enough frozen material suitable for large-scale genetic analyses, methods to isolate and quantify messenger RNA (mRNA) from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections are needed. Recovery of RNA from routinely processed biopsies and quantification by the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) has been reported; however, the effects of formalin fixation have not been well studied. We used a proteinase K-salt precipitation RNA isolation protocol followed by TaqMan quantitative PCR to compare the effect of formalin fixation for 24, 48, and 72 hours and for 1 week in normal (2), oral epithelial dysplasia (3), and oral squamous cell carcinoma (4) specimens yielding 9 fresh and 36 formalin-fixed samples. We also compared mRNA and protein expression levels using immunohistochemistry for epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR), matrix metalloproteinase (MMP)-1, p21, and vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) in 15 randomly selected and routinely processed oral carcinomas. We were able to extract RNA suitable for quantitative reverse transcription (RT) from all fresh (9/9) and formalin-fixed (36/36) specimens fixed for differing lengths of time and from all (15/15) randomly selected oral squamous cell carcinoma. We found that prolonged formalin fixation (>48 h) had a detrimental effect on quantitative RT polymerase chain reaction results that was most marked for MMP-1 and VEGF but less evident for p21 and EGFR. Comparisons of quantitative RT polymerase chain reaction and immunohistochemistry showed that for all markers, except p21, there was good correlation between mRNA and protein levels. p21 mRNA was overexpressed in only one case, but protein levels were elevated in all but one tumor, consistent with the established translational regulation of p21. These results show that RNA can be reliably isolated from formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections and can produce reliable quantitative RT-PCR data. However, results for some markers are adversely affected by prolonged formalin fixation times.

PMID: 12218216 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



The p21(Cip1) protein, a cyclin inhibitor, regulates the levels and the intracellular localization of CDC25A in mice regenerating livers.

Jaime M, Pujol MJ, Serratosa J, Pantoja C, Canela N, Casanovas O, Serrano M, Agell N, Bachs O.

Department of Cell Biology and Pathology, Faculty of Medicine, Institut d'Investigacions Biomediques August Pi Sunyer (IDIBAPS), University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.

Liver cells from p21(Cip1^{-/-}) mice subjected to partial hepatectomy (PH) progress into DNA synthesis faster than those from wild-type mice. These cells also show a premature induction of cyclin E/cyclin-dependent kinase (CDK) 2 activity. We studied the mechanisms whereby cells lacking p21(Cip1) showed a premature induction of this activity. Whereas the levels of CDK2, cyclin E, and p27(Kip1) were similar in both wild-type and p21(Cip1^{-/-}) mice, those of the activator CDC25A were much higher in p21(Cip1^{-/-}) quiescent and regenerating livers than in wild-type animals. Moreover, p21(Cip1^{-/-}) cells also showed a premature translocation of CDC25A from cytoplasm into the nucleus. The ectopic expression of p21(Cip1) into mice embryo fibroblasts from p21(Cip1^{-/-}) mice decreased the levels of CDC25A and delayed its nuclear translocation. The levels of CDC25A messenger RNA in p21(Cip1^{-/-}) cells were higher than in wild-type cells, suggesting that this increase might be responsible, at least in part, for the high levels of CDC25A protein in these cells. Thus, the results reported here indicate that p21(Cip1) regulates the levels and the intracellular localization of CDC25A. We also found a good correlation between CDC25A nuclear translocation and cyclin E/CDK2 activation. In conclusion, premature translocation of CDC25A to the nucleus might be involved in the advanced induction of cyclin E/CDK2 activity and DNA replication in cells from animals lacking p21(Cip1).

PMID: 11981756 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



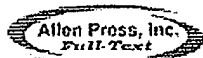
Matrilin-3 in human articular cartilage: increased expression in osteoarthritis.

Pullig O, Weseloh G, Klatt AR, Wagener R, Swoboda B.

Division of Orthopaedic Rheumatology, Department of Orthopaedics, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Rathsbberger Str. 57, D-91054 Erlangen, Germany.
oliver.pullig@med.uni-erlangen.de

OBJECTIVE: Matrilin-3 is a member of the recently described matrilin family of extracellular matrix proteins containing von Willebrand factor A-like domains. The matrilin-3 subunit can form homo-tetramers as well as hetero-oligomers together with subunits of matrilin-1 (cartilage matrix protein). It has a restricted tissue distribution and is strongly expressed in growing skeletal tissues. Detailed information on expression and distribution of extracellular matrix proteins is important to understand cartilage function in health and in disease like osteoarthritis (OA). **METHODS:** Normal and osteoarthritic cartilage were systematically analysed for matrilin-3 expression, using immunohistochemistry, Western blot analysis, in situ hybridization, and quantitative PCR. **RESULTS:** Our results indicate that matrilin-3 is a mandatory component of mature articular cartilage with its expression being restricted to chondrocytes from the tangential zone and the upper middle cartilage zone. Osteoarthritic cartilage samples with only moderate morphological osteoarthritic degenerations have elevated levels of matrilin-3 mRNA. In parallel, we found an increased deposition of matrilin-3 protein in the cartilage matrix. Matrilin-3 staining was diffusely distributed in the cartilage matrix, with no cellular staining being detectable. In cartilage samples with minor osteoarthritic lesions, matrilin-3 deposition was restricted to the middle zone and to the upper deep zone. A strong correlation was found between enhanced matrilin-3 gene and protein expression and the extent of tissue damage. Sections with severe osteoarthritic degeneration showed the highest amount of matrilin-3 mRNA, strong signals in in situ hybridization, and prominent protein deposition in the middle and deep cartilage zone. **CONCLUSION:** We conclude that matrilin-3 is an integral component of human articular cartilage matrix and that the enhanced expression of matrilin-3 in OA may be a cellular response to the modified microenvironment in the disease. Copyright 2002 OsteoArthritis Research Society International.

PMID: 11950247 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



UVA irradiation-induced activation of activator protein-1 is correlated with induced expression of AP-1 family members in the human keratinocyte cell line HaCaT.

Silvers AL, Bowden GT.

Department of Radiation Oncology, Arizona Cancer Center, The University of Arizona, Tucson 85724, USA.

To determine whether the transcription factor activator protein-1 (AP-1) could be modulated by ultraviolet A (UVA) exposure, we examined AP-1 DNA-binding activity and transactivation after exposure to UVA in the human immortalized keratinocyte cell line HaCaT. Maximal AP-1 transactivation was observed with 250 kJ/m² UVA between 3 and 4 h after irradiation. DNA binding of AP-1 to the target 12-O-tetradecanoylphorbol-13-acetate response element sequence was maximally induced 1-3 h after irradiation. Both de novo transcription and translation contributed to the UVA-induced AP-1 DNA binding. c-Fos was implicated as a primary component of the AP-1 DNA-binding complex. Other components of the complex included Fra-2, c-Jun, JunB and JunD. UVA irradiation induced protein expression of c-Fos, c-Jun, Fra-1 and Fra-2. Phosphorylated forms of these induced proteins were determined at specific time points. A strong correlation existed between UVA-induced AP-1 activity and accumulation of c-Fos, c-Jun and Fra-1 proteins. UVA irradiation also induced c-fos and c-jun mRNA expression and transcriptional activation of the c-fos gene promoter. These results demonstrate that UVA irradiation activates AP-1 and that c-fos induction may play a critical role in the response of these human keratinocytes to UVA irradiation.

PMID: 11950097 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Suppressors of cytokine signaling proteins are differentially expressed in Th1 and Th2 cells: implications for Th cell lineage commitment and maintenance.

Egwuagu CE, Yu CR, Zhang M, Mahdi RM, Kim SJ, Gery I.

Laboratory of Immunology, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD 20892, USA. emeka@helix.nih.gov

Positive regulatory factors induced by IL-12/STAT4 and IL-4/STAT6 signaling during T cell development contribute to polarized patterns of cytokine expression manifested by differentiated Th cells. These two critical and antagonistic signaling pathways are under negative feedback regulation by a multimember family of intracellular proteins called suppressor of cytokine signaling (SOCS). However, it is not known whether these negative regulatory factors also modulate Th1/Th2 lineage commitment and maintenance. We show here that CD4(+) naive T cells constitutively express low levels of SOCS1, SOCS2, and SOCS3 mRNAs. These mRNAs and their proteins increase significantly in nonpolarized Th cells after activation by TCR signaling. We further show that differentiation into Th1 or Th2 phenotype is accompanied by preferential expression of distinct SOCS mRNA transcripts and proteins. SOCS1 expression is 5-fold higher in Th1 than in Th2 cells, whereas Th2 cells contain 23-fold higher levels of SOCS3. We also demonstrate that IL-12-induced STAT4 activation is inhibited in Th2 cells that express high levels of SOCS3 whereas IL-4/STAT6 signaling is constitutively activated in Th2 cells, but not Th1 cells, with high SOCS1 expression. These results suggest that mutually exclusive use of STAT4 and STAT6 signaling pathways by differentiated Th cells may derive in part, from SOCS3- or SOCS1-mediated repression of IL-12/STAT4- or IL-4/STAT6 signaling in Th2 and Th1 cells, respectively. Given the strong correlation between distinct patterns of SOCS expression and differentiation into the Th1 or Th2 phenotype, SOCS1 and SOCS3 proteins are therefore Th lineage markers that can serve as therapeutic targets for immune modulation therapy.

PMID: 11907070 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Characterization of cyclin D2 expression in human endometrium.

Choi D, Yoon S, Lee E, Hwang S, Song S, Kim J, Yoon BK, Lee JH.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Samsung Medical Center, Sungkyunkwan University School of Medicine, Seoul, South Korea. dschoi@smc.samsung.co.kr

OBJECTIVE: This study was undertaken to investigate cyclin D2 mRNA and protein expression in human endometrium during the menstrual cycle. **METHODS:** Endometrial samples were obtained from 15 premenopausal nonpregnant women who had hysterectomies for benign gynecologic reasons. They were divided into the following five groups according to histologic dating: early proliferative (n = 3), mid to late proliferative (n = 3), early secretory (n = 3), mid secretory (n = 3), and late secretory (n = 3). Cyclin D2 mRNA and protein expression were analyzed using reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction, Western blotting, and immunohistochemistry. **RESULTS:** Cyclin D2 mRNA and protein were expressed in human endometrial tissue throughout the menstrual cycle. Cyclin D2 mRNA and protein expression of proliferative phase endometrium were significantly higher than those of secretory phase endometrium ($P < .05$). The staining intensity of cyclin D2 in proliferative phase endometrium was higher than that in secretory phase ($P < .05$). Cyclin D2 mRNA level showed good correlation with cyclin D2 protein level ($R = 0.579$, $P < .03$), and cyclin D2 protein also showed good correlation with immunohistochemical staining intensity ($R = 0.562$, $P < .03$). **CONCLUSION:** Cyclin D2 was expressed in human endometrium throughout the menstrual cycle. Cyclin D2 mRNA and protein were expressed at high levels in proliferative phase endometrium, especially in the early proliferative phase, and then decreased in the secretory phase.

PMID: 11839508 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Augmented expression of neuronal nitric oxide synthase in the atria parasympathetically decreases heart rate during acute myocardial infarction in rats.

Takimoto Y, Aoyama T, Tanaka K, Keyamura R, Yui Y, Sasayama S.

Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Graduate School of Medicine, Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan.

BACKGROUND: Nitric oxide (NO) synthesized within sinoatrial cells recently has been shown to participate in the autonomic control of heart rate. We hypothesized that NO in the neuronal cells in the heart was increased and parasympathetically regulated heart rate after myocardial infarction (MI). **METHODS AND RESULTS:** We examined heart rate dynamics and neuronal NO synthase (nNOS) expression and activities in the atria of rats with MI 1, 3, 7, and 14 days after MI (n=7 to 22 for each group). Both the mRNA levels of nNOS in the atria determined by competitive reverse transcriptase-polymerase chain reaction and the protein levels determined by Western blotting were significantly increased compared with controls 1, 3, and 7 days after MI. nNOS activity in the atria 1 day after infarction was also increased in MI rats. nNOS immunoreactivity was observed in nerve fibers in the atria. After infusion of a specific inhibitor of nNOS and iNOS, 1-(2-trifluoromethylphenyl) imidazole (TRIM) (50 mg/kg IV), heart rate was significantly ($P<0.01$) increased in MI rats compared with controls 1, 3, and 7 days after MI. The iNOS-specific inhibitor, 1400W (10 mg/kg SC), did not significantly affect the heart rate in rats with MI. The effect of TRIM was abolished by pretreatment with L-arginine (25 mg/kg IV) or by parasympathetic blockade with atropine but not by propranolol. There was a strong correlation ($r=0.837$, $P<0.0001$) between the nNOS protein expression and heart rate change after TRIM infusion. **CONCLUSIONS:** These results indicate that increased nNOS parasympathetically decreased heart rate via the production of NO in rats with acute MI.

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Expression of membrane-type matrix metalloproteinases 4, 5, and 6 in mouse corneas infected with *P. aeruginosa*.

Dong Z, Katar M, Alousi S, Berk RS.

Department of Immunology and Microbiology, Wayne State University School of Medicine, 540 E. Canfield, Detroit, MI 48201, USA.

PURPOSE: To investigate the expression and regulation of membrane-type matrix metalloproteinases (MT-MMPs) 4, 5, and 6 in the mouse corneas infected with *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*. **METHODS:** C57BL/6J mice were intracorneally infected with *P. aeruginosa*. The expression of MT4-, MT5-, and MT6-MMP was detected at both the mRNA and protein levels by RT-PCR and immunoblot analysis. Immunohistochemical staining was performed to localize the expression of MT4- and MT5-MMP in the mouse corneas. **RESULTS:** Expression of MT4- and MT5-MMP was detected in the normal (uninfected) cornea by RT-PCR and immunoblot analysis. When infected with *P. aeruginosa*, the corneas showed significant induction of each MT-MMP. Localization of MT4- and MT5-MMP revealed that the expression of MT5-MMP was restricted to the epithelial tissue in the normal cornea, whereas the induced expression of MT4- and MT5-MMP was predominantly in the substantia propria, which contained most of the infiltrating cells. MT6-MMP expression was not detected in the uninfected cornea but was upregulated in the infected corneas. **CONCLUSIONS:** Expression of MT4-, MT5-, and MT6-MMP was induced in corneas infected with *P. aeruginosa*. Immunohistochemistry showed predominant immunoreactivity of MT4- and MT5-MMP in the substantia propria. Previous histologic studies have revealed different patterns of inflammatory cell infiltration with an increased number of polymorphonuclear neutrophils (PMNs) during the early stage of inflammation and increased macrophages during the late stage. These results indicate a good correlation between the overexpression of the MT-MMPs in the infected corneas and the inflammatory response—that is, leukocyte infiltration—indicating that inflammatory cells such as macrophages and PMNs may play a role in the upregulation of MT-MMPs during corneal infection, which in turn can cause the destruction of corneal tissue.

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DNA hypermethylation is a mechanism for loss of expression of the HLA class I genes in human esophageal squamous cell carcinomas.

Nie Y, Yang G, Song Y, Zhao X, So C, Liao J, Wang LD, Yang CS.

Laboratory for Cancer Research, College of Pharmacy, Rutgers-The State University of New Jersey, 164 Frelinghuysen Road, Piscataway, NJ 08854-8020, USA.

The three human leukocyte antigen (HLA) class I antigens, HLA-A, HLA-B and HLA-C, play important roles in the elimination of transformed cells by cytotoxic T cells. Frequent loss of expression of these antigens at the cell surface has been observed in many human cancers. Various mechanisms for post-transcriptional regulation have been proposed and tested but the molecular mechanisms for transcriptional regulation are not clear. We show by immunohistochemistry that the HLA class I antigens are absent in 26 of 29 (89%) samples of human esophageal squamous cell carcinomas (ESCC). Eleven of the 26 ESCC samples lost mRNA expression for at least one of the HLA genes, as shown by RT-PCR. DNA from the 29 pairs of ESCC and neighboring normal epithelium were examined for CpG island hypermethylation, homozygous deletion, microsatellite instability (MSI) and loss of heterozygosity (LOH). DNA from normal epithelial tissues had no detectable methylation of the CpG islands of any of these gene loci. Thirteen of 29 ESCC samples (45%) exhibited methylation of one or more of the three HLA loci and six samples (21%) exhibited methylation of all three loci. The HLA-B gene locus was most frequently methylated (38%). HLA-B mRNA expression in an ESCC cell line, where HLA-B was hypermethylated and did not express mRNA, was activated after treatment with 5-aza-2'-deoxycytidine. Homozygous deletion of these three gene loci was not observed. Relatively low rates of LOH and MSI were observed for the microsatellite markers D6S306, D6S258, D6S273 and D6S1666, close to the HLA-A, -B and -C loci, although a high ratio of LOH was observed at a nearby locus (represented by the markers D6S1051 and D6S1560), where the tumor suppressor gene p21(Waf1) resides. A strong correlation between genetic alterations and mRNA inactivation was observed in the ESCC samples. Our results indicate that HLA class I gene expression was frequently down-regulated in ESCC at both the protein and mRNA levels and that hypermethylation of the promoter regions of the HLA-A, -B and -C genes is a major mechanism of transcriptional inactivation.

PMID: 11577000 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Comment in:

- [Cancer Res. 2002 Jan 15;62\(2\):618-9.](#)

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BMI-1 gene amplification and overexpression in hematological malignancies occur mainly in mantle cell lymphomas.

Bea S, Tort E, Pinyol M, Puig X, Hernandez L, Hernandez S, Fernandez PL, van Lohuizen M, Colomer D, Campo E.

The Hematopathology Section, Laboratory of Anatomic Pathology, Hospital Clinic, Institut d'Investigacions Biomediques August Pi i Sunyer (IDIBAPS), University of Barcelona, Spain.

The BMI-1 gene is a putative oncogene belonging to the Polycomb group family that cooperates with c-myc in the generation of mouse lymphomas and seems to participate in cell cycle regulation and senescence by acting as a transcriptional repressor of the INK4a/ARF locus. The BMI-1 gene has been located on chromosome 10p13, a region involved in chromosomal translocations in infant leukemias, and amplified in occasional non-Hodgkin's lymphomas (NHLs) and solid tumors. To determine the possible alterations of this gene in human malignancies, we have examined 160 lymphoproliferative disorders, 13 myeloid leukemias, and 89 carcinomas by Southern blot analysis and detected BMI-1 gene amplification (3- to 7-fold) in 4 of 36 (11%) mantle cell lymphomas (MCLs) with no alterations in the INK4a/ARF locus. BMI-1 and p16INK4a mRNA and protein expression were also studied by real-time quantitative reverse transcription-PCR and Western blot, respectively, in a subset of NHLs. BMI-1 expression was significantly higher in chronic lymphocytic leukemia and MCL than in follicular lymphoma and large B cell lymphoma. The four tumors with gene amplification showed significantly higher mRNA levels than other MCLs and NHLs with the BMI-1 gene in germline configuration. Five additional MCLs also showed very high mRNA levels without gene amplification. A good correlation between BMI-1 mRNA levels and protein expression was observed in all types of lymphomas. No relationship was detected between BMI-1 and p16INK4a mRNA levels. These findings suggest that BMI-1 gene alterations in human neoplasms are uncommon, but they may contribute to the pathogenesis in a subset of malignant lymphomas, particularly of mantle cell type.

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Expression of bcr-abl mRNA in individual chronic myelogenous leukaemia cells as determined by in situ amplification.

Pachmann K, Zhao S, Schenk T, Kantarjian H, El-Naggar AK, Siciliano MJ, Guo JQ, Arlinghaus RB, Andreeff M.

The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, Department of Molecular Haematology and Therapy, 1515 Holcombe Boulevard, Houston, TX 77030, USA.

We present the results of a novel method developed for evaluation of in situ amplification, a molecular genetic method at the cellular level. Reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) was used to study bcr-abl transcript levels in individual cells from patients with chronic myelogenous leukaemia (CML). After hybridizing a fluorochrome-labelled probe to the cell-bound RT-PCR product, bcr-abl mRNA-positive cells were determined using image analysis. A dilution series of bcr-abl-positive BV173 into normal cells showed a good correlation between expected and actual values. In 25 CML samples, the percentage of in situ PCR-positive cells showed an excellent correlation with cytogenetic results ($r = 0.94$, $P < 0.0001$), interphase fluorescence in situ hybridization (FISH) ($r = 0.95$, $P = 0.001$) and hypermetaphase FISH ($r = 0.81$, $P < 0.001$). The fluorescence intensity was higher in residual CML cells after interferon (IFN) treatment than in newly diagnosed patients ($P = 0.004$), and was highest in late-stage CML resistant to IFN therapy and lowest in CML blast crisis ($P = 0.001$). Mean fluorescence values correlated with bcr-abl protein levels, as determined by Western blot analysis ($r = 0.62$). Laser scanning cytometry allowing automated analysis of large numbers of cells confirmed the results. Thus, fluorescence in situ PCR provides a novel and quantitative approach for monitoring tumour load and bcr-abl transcript levels in CML.

PMID: 11260080 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



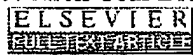
Differential upregulation of cellular adhesion molecules at the sites of oxidative stress in experimental acute pancreatitis.

Telek G, Ducroc R, Scoazec JY, Pasquier C, Feldmann G, Roze C.

INSERM U 410, Universite Paris 7 Denis Diderot, 75870 Paris, France.

BACKGROUND: Severe acute pancreatitis (AP)(2) is associated with exaggerated leukocyte adherence and activation. Endothelial cellular adhesion molecules (CAMs) can be induced by cytokines, but also directly by oxygen free radicals (OFRs), mediated by nuclear factor kappa-B (NF-kappa B). We investigated the behavior of inducible CAMs in relation to pancreatic oxidative stress. Our novel modification of cerium capture histochemistry (reaction of OFRs with cerium produces laser reflective Ce perhydroxide precipitates) combined with reflectance confocal laser scanning microscopy (CLSM) allows the histological codemonstration of in vivo OFR production and immunolabeled CAMs, or NF-kappa B. **METHODS:** Taurocholate AP was induced in rats; sham operated and normal animals served as controls. To achieve in situ, in vivo reaction of cerium with OFRs, animals were perfused with CeCl(3) solution at different time points (1, 2, 8, 24 h) and then sacrificed. E-selectin, P-selectin, ICAM-1, VCAM, and NF-kappa B p65 were labeled by immunofluorescence (IF) on frozen sections of cerium perfused pancreata. IF and Ce perhydroxide reflectance were simultaneously detected by CLSM. Pancreatic gene expression of the same CAMs was quantified by competitive RT-PCR (MIMIC internal control). **RESULTS:** Control pancreata showed negligible reflectance and minimal CAM expression. Early (1, 2 h) AP samples were characterized by intense, heterogeneous acinar OFR production, strong P-selectin, and increasing ICAM expression, with nuclear translocation of p65, histologically all colocalizing with the areas of acinar oxidative stress. Adherent polymorphonuclear leukocytes (PMNs) displayed weak OFR formation. Later (8, 24 h), a slowly declining P-selectin, but persisting ICAM-1 expression, was paralleled by widespread adherence of PMNs producing surprisingly large amounts of OFRs. VCAM and E-selectin showed a mild increase at 24 h. CAM gene activation was in good correlation with the protein expression. **CONCLUSIONS:** The early acinar oxidative stress is colocalized with NF-kappa B activation, preferential P-selectin, and ICAM upregulation in this AP model. Subsequently, adherent, activated PMNs become the major source of OFRs, thereby contributing to tissue damage. Copyright 2001 Academic Press.

PMID: 11180997 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Increasing expression of tissue plasminogen activator and plasminogen activator inhibitor type 2 in dog gingival tissues with progressive inflammation.

Lindberg P, Kinnby B, Lecander I, Lang NP, Matsson L.

Center for Oral Health Sciences, Malmo University, S-214 21 Malmo, Sweden.
pia.lindberg@od.mah.se

Urokinase and tissue-type plasminogen activators (u--PA and t--PA) are serine proteases that convert plasminogen into plasmin, which degrades matrix proteins and activates metalloproteinases. The PAs are balanced by specific inhibitors (PAI--1 and PAI--2). Local production of t--PA and PAI--2 was recently demonstrated in human gingival tissues. The aim now was to investigate the production and localization of t--PA and PAI--2 in gingival tissues from dogs in three well-defined periodontal conditions; clinically healthy gingiva, chronic gingivitis and an initial stage of ligature-induced loss of attachment. At the start of the experiment the gingiva showed clear signs of inflammation. Clinically healthy gingiva were obtained after 21 days period of intense oral hygiene. Attachment loss was induced by placing rubber ligatures around the neck of some teeth. Biopsies were taken from areas representing the different conditions and prepared for in situ hybridization and immunohistochemistry. In clinically healthy gingiva both t--PA mRNA and antigen were expressed in a thin outer layer of the sulcular and junctional epithelia. No t--PA signals or staining were seen in connective tissue. Both mRNA signaling and immunostaining for t--PA were stronger in chronic gingivitis. In areas with loss of attachment, t--PA mRNA as well as antigen were found in the sulcular and junctional epithelia to a similar degree as in gingivitis. Occasionally the connective tissue was involved, especially in connection with vessels. PAI--2 mRNA was seen in a thin outer layer of the sulcular and junctional epithelia in clinically healthy gingiva, but no signals were seen in connective tissue. PAI--2 antigen was found primarily in the outer layer of the sulcular and junctional epithelia. Some cells in the connective tissue were stained. In gingivitis, PAI--2 signals were mainly found in the same locations, but more intense and extending towards the connective tissue. Immunostaining was seen in the outer half of the sulcular and junctional epithelia as well as in the upper part of the connective tissue, close to the sulcular epithelium. In sites with loss of attachment, PAI--2 mRNA was found throughout the sulcular and junctional epithelia, as was the antigen, which stained intensely. No PAI--2 mRNA was seen in connective tissue; the antigen was found scattered, especially near vessels. This study shows that the expression of both t--PA and PAI--2 increases with experimental gingival inflammation in the dog, and furthermore, the two techniques demonstrate a strong correlation between the topographical distribution of the site of protein synthesis and the tissue location of the antigens for both t--PA and PAI--2. The distribution correlates well with previous findings in humans.



Rapid quantitation of proinflammatory and chemoattractant cytokine expression in small tissue samples and monocyte-derived dendritic cells: validation of a new real-time RT-PCR technology.

Blaschke V, Reich K, Blaschke S, Zipprich S, Neumann C.

Department of Dermatology, von-Siebold-Str. 3, D-37075, Goettingen, Germany.
vblasch@gwdg.de

The analysis of cytokine profiles plays a central part in the characterization of disease-related inflammatory pathways and the identification of functional properties of immune cell subpopulations. Because tissue biopsy samples are too small to allow the detection of cytokine protein, the detection of mRNA by RT-PCR analysis is often used to investigate the cytokine milieu in inflammatory lesions. RT-PCR itself is a qualitative method, indicating the presence or absence of specific transcripts. With the use of internal or external standards it may also serve as a quantitative method. The most widely accepted method is quantitative competitive RT-PCR, based on internal shortened standards. Recently, online real-time PCR has been introduced (LightCycler), which allows quantitation in less than 30 min. Here, we have tested its use for the analysis of cytokine gene expression in different experimental in vitro and ex vivo settings. First, we compared quantitative competitive RT-PCR with real-time RT-PCR in the quantitation of transcription levels of the CD4(+) cell-specific chemoattractant Interleukin-16 during the maturation of monocyte-derived dendritic cells, and found a good correlation between both methods. Second, differences in the amounts of IL-16 mRNA in synovial tissue from patients with rheumatoid arthritis and osteoarthritis as assessed by real-time RT-PCR paralleled differences in the level of IL-16 protein in the synovial fluid. Finally, we employed real-time RT-PCR to study the cutaneous expression of several cytokines during experimental immunomodulatory therapy of psoriasis by Interleukin-10, and demonstrate that the technique is suitable for pharmacogenomic monitoring. In summary, real-time RT-PCR is a sensitive and rapid tool for quantifying mRNA expression even with small quantities of tissue. The results obtained do not differ from those generated by quantitative competitive RT-PCR.

Publication Types:

- Evaluation Studies

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Up-regulation of mitochondrial peripheral benzodiazepine receptor expression by tumor necrosis factor alpha in testicular leydig cells. Possible involvement in cell survival.

Rey C, Mauduit C, Naureils O, Benahmed M, Louisot P, Gasnier F.

INSERM U. 189, Faculte de Medecine Lyon-Sud, BP12, 69921 cedex, Oullins, France.

Porcine Leydig cells in primary cultures are resistant to tumor necrosis factor alpha (TNFalpha) cytotoxicity. Here we report that these cells can be rendered sensitive to TNFalpha killing by treatment with the translational inhibitor cycloheximide, suggesting the existence of proteins that can suppress the death stimulus induced by the cytokine. In search of these cytoprotective proteins, we focused on the constituents of the mitochondrial permeability transition pore (PT pore), whose opening has been shown to play a critical role in the TNFalpha-mediated death pathway. We found that TNFalpha up-regulated mRNA and protein expression of the mitochondrial peripheral benzodiazepine receptor (PBR), an outer membrane-derived constituent of the pore. A strong correlation was established between the resistance of the cells to TNFalpha killing and the density of PBR-binding sites. Concomitantly, TNFalpha down-regulated Bcl-2 mRNA and protein expression. As Bcl-2 has been shown to be an endogenous inhibitor of the PT pore, we hypothesize that the TNFalpha-induced up-regulation of PBR expression may compensate for the decrease in Bcl-2 levels to prevent the opening of the PT pore.

PMID: 11077046 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Cyclooxygenase-2 expression in macrophages: modulation by protein kinase C- α .

Giroux M, Descoteaux A.

Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique-Institut Armand-Frappier, Universite du Quebec, Laval, Canada.

Cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) is an inducible enzyme responsible for high levels of PG production during inflammation and immune responses. Previous studies with pharmacological inhibitors suggested a role for protein kinase C (PKC) in PG production possibly by regulating COX-2 expression. In this study, we addressed the role of PKC- α in the modulation of COX-2 expression and PGE2 synthesis by the overexpressing of a dominant-negative (DN) mutant of this isoenzyme in the mouse macrophage cell line RAW 264.7. We investigated the effect of various stimuli on COX-2 expression, namely, LPS, IFN- γ , and the intracellular parasite *Leishmania donovani*. Whereas LPS-induced COX-2 mRNA and protein expression were down-regulated in DN PKC- α -overexpressing clones, IFN- γ -induced COX-2 expression was up-regulated in DN PKC- α -overexpressing clones with respect to normal RAW 264.7 cells. Measurements of PGE2 levels revealed a strong correlation between PGE2 secretion and IFN- γ -induced COX-2 mRNA and protein levels in DN PKC- α -overexpressing clones. Taken together, these results suggest a role for PKC- α in the modulation of LPS- and IFN- γ -induced COX-2 expression, as well as in IFN- γ -induced PGE2 secretion.

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Inhibin and activin production and subunit expression in human placental cells cultured in vitro.

Debieve F, Pampfer S, Thomas K.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecological Endocrinology, Universite Catholique de Louvain, 1200 Brussels, Belgium.

Inhibins and activins are dimeric proteins, with each subunit being one of three related protein subunits (alpha, betaA or betaB). The mRNA levels of these subunits were studied quantitatively during in-vitro differentiation of human cytotrophoblast cells into syncytium, using Northern blot analysis and semi-quantitative reverse transcription-polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) analysis. The corresponding protein concentrations were determined by specific enzyme-linked immunosorbent assays for inhibin A, B, pro alphaC and activin A in cellular protein extracts and culture medium (n = 5).

Immunofluorescence studies showed syncytium formation after 48 h. The alpha subunit was present before plating and increased at 48 h ($P < 0.001$) while the betaA subunit was weak before plating and increased at 24 h. The betaB subunit was not detected. With respect to corresponding protein synthesis, inhibin A (alpha + betaA) had risen after 48 h in cellular protein extract and after 72 h in culture medium, while activin A (betaA + betaB) was detected after 24 h, with no significant variations in culture medium. There was a good correlation between inhibin A and alpha subunit expression ($r = 0.736$, $P < 0.001$), as well as between activin A and betaA subunit expression ($r = 0.755$, $P < 0.001$). This study showed that mRNA expression parallels protein synthesis of inhibin and activin in trophoblast cells. Inhibin A synthesis appears to be dependent on alpha subunit mRNA expression, rather than on the betaA subunit which controls activin A synthesis. This study has also shown that isolated cytotrophoblast cells do not produce dimeric inhibin. However, during the transformation of cytotrophoblast cells into syncytium, betaA subunit mRNA expression may be an indicator of cell aggregation, while alpha subunit mRNA expression may be an indicator of cell fusion.

PMID: 10908285 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Basic fibroblast growth factor expression is increased in human renal fibrogenesis and may mediate autocrine fibroblast proliferation.

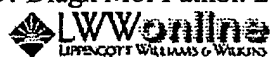
Strutz F, Zeisberg M, Hemmerlein B, Sattler B, Hummel K, Becker V, Muller GA.

Department of Nephrology and Rheumatology, Georg-August-University Gottingen, Germany. fstrutz@gwdg.de

BACKGROUND: Interstitial fibroblasts play a critical role in renal fibrogenesis, and autocrine proliferation of these cells may account for continuous matrix synthesis. Basic fibroblast growth factor (FGF-2) is mitogenic for most cells and exerts intracrine, autocrine, and paracrine effects on epithelial and mesenchymal cells. The aims of the present studies were to localize and quantitate the expression of FGF-2 in normal and pathologic human kidneys and to study the *in vitro* effects of FGF-2 on proliferation, differentiation, and matrix production of isolated cortical kidney fibroblasts. **METHODS:** FGF-2 protein expression was localized by immunofluorescence double labelings in normal and fibrotic human kidneys. Subsequently, interstitial FGF-2 labeling was determined semiquantitatively in 8 normal kidneys and 39 kidneys with variable degrees of interstitial fibrosis and was correlated with the morphometrically determined interstitial cortical volume. In addition, FGF-2 expression was quantitated by immunoblot analysis in three normal and six fibrotic kidneys. FGF-2 mRNA was localized by *in situ* hybridizations. Seven primary cortical fibroblast lines were established, and expression of FGF-2 and FGF receptor-1 (FGFR-1) were examined. The effects of FGF-2 on cell proliferation were determined by bromodeoxyuridine incorporation and cell counts, those on differentiation into myofibroblasts by staining for alpha-smooth muscle actin, and those on matrix synthesis by enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay for collagen type I and fibronectin. Finally, proliferative activity *in vivo* was evaluated by expression of MIB-1 (Ki-67 antigen). **RESULTS:** In normal kidneys, FGF-2 expression was confined to glomerular, vascular, and a few tubular as well as interstitial fibroblast-like cells. The expression of FGF-2 protein was increased in human kidneys, with tubulointerstitial scarring correlating with the degree of interstitial fibrosis ($r = 0.84$, $P < 0.01$). Immunoblot analyses confirmed a significant increase in FGF-2 protein expression in kidneys with interstitial scarring. *In situ* hybridization studies demonstrated low-level detection of FGF-2 mRNA in normal kidneys. However, FGF-2 mRNA expression was robustly up-regulated in interstitial and tubular cells in end-stage kidneys, indicating that these cells are the source of excess FGF-2 protein. Primary cortical fibroblasts express FGF-2 and FGFR-1 *in vitro*. FGF-2 induced a robust growth response in these cells that could be blocked specifically by a neutralizing FGF-2 antibody. Interestingly, the addition of the neutralizing antibody alone did reduce basal proliferation up to 31.5%. In addition, FGF-2 induced expression of alpha-smooth muscle actin up to 1.6-fold, but no significant effect was observed on the synthesis of collagen type I and fibronectin. Finally, staining for MIB-1 revealed a good correlation of interstitial FGF-2 positivity

with interstitial and tubular proliferative activity ($r = 0.71$, $P < 0.01$ for interstitial proliferation, $N = 30$). CONCLUSIONS: Interstitial FGF-2 protein and mRNA expression correlate with interstitial scarring. FGF-2 is a strong mitogen for cortical kidney fibroblasts and may promote autocrine fibroblast growth. Expression of FGF-2 correlates with interstitial and tubular proliferation in vivo.

PMID: 10760088 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Correlative immunohistochemical and reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction analysis of somatostatin receptor type 2 in neuroendocrine tumors of the lung.

Papotti M, Croce S, Macri L, Funaro A, Pecchioni C, Schindler M, Bussolati G.

Department of Biomedical Sciences and Oncology, University of Turin, Italy.

Somatostatin receptors type 2 (sst2) have been frequently detected in neuroendocrine tumors and bind somatostatin analogues, such as octreotide, with high affinity. Receptor autoradiography, specific mRNA detection and, more recently, antisst2 polyclonal antibodies are currently employed to reveal sst2. The aim of the present study was to investigate by three different techniques the presence of sst2 in a series of 26 neuroendocrine tumors of the lung in which fresh frozen tissue and paraffin sections were available. It was possible, therefore, to compare, in individual cases, RNA analysis studied by reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR), in situ hybridization (ISH), and immunohistochemistry. A series of 20 nonneuroendocrine lung carcinoma samples served as controls. RT-PCR was positive for sst2 in 22 of 26 samples, including 15 of 15 typical carcinoids, 5 of 6 atypical carcinoids, and 2 of 5 small-cell carcinomas. The sst2 mRNA signal obtained by RT-PCR was strong in the majority (87%) of typical carcinoids and of variable intensity in atypical carcinoids and small-cell carcinomas. A weakly positive signal was observed in 5 of 20 control samples. In immunohistochemistry, two different antibodies (anti-sst2) were employed, including a monoclonal antibody, generated in the Department of Pathology, University of Turin. In the majority of samples a good correlation between sst2 mRNA (as detected by RT-PCR) and sst2 protein expression (as detected by immunohistochemistry) was observed. However, one atypical carcinoid and one small-cell carcinoma had focal immunostaining but no RT-PCR signal. ISH performed in selected samples paralleled the results obtained with the other techniques. A low sst2 expression was associated with high grade neuroendocrine tumors and with aggressive behavior. It is concluded that 1) neuroendocrine tumors of the lung express sst2, and there is a correlation between the mRNA amount and the degree of differentiation; 2) immunohistochemistry and ISH are reliable tools to demonstrate sst2 in these tumors; and 3) sst2 identification in tissue sections may provide information on the diagnostic or therapeutic usefulness of somatostatin analogues in individual patients with neuroendocrine tumors.

PMID: 10718213 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]



Overexpression of chemokines, fibrogenic cytokines, and myofibroblasts in human membranous nephropathy.

Mezzano SA, Droguett MA, Burgos ME, Ardiles LG, Aros CA, Caorsi I, Egido J.

Division of Nephrology, School of Medicine, Universidad Austral, Valdivia, Chile.
smezzano@uach.cl

Overexpression of chemokines, fibrogenic cytokines, and myofibroblasts in human membranous nephropathy. **BACKGROUND:** Proteinuria plays a central role in the progression of glomerular disease, and there is growing evidence suggesting that it may determine tubular cell activation with release of chemokines and fibrogenic factors, leading to interstitial inflammatory reaction. However, most studies on this subject have been performed in experimental models, and the experience in human kidney biopsies has been scarce. We analyzed the tissue sections of patients with idiopathic membranous nephropathy (IMN), a noninflammatory glomerular disease that may follow a progressive disease with heavy persistent proteinuria, interstitial cell infiltration, and decline of renal function. **METHODS:** Paraffin-embedded biopsy specimens from 25 patients with IMN (13 progressive and 12 nonprogressive) were retrospectively studied by immunohistochemistry [monocyte chemoattractant protein-1 (MCP-1), regulated on activation normal T-cell expressed and secreted chemokine (RANTES), osteopontin (OPN), platelet-derived growth factor-BB (PD-GF-BB)] and in situ hybridization [MCP-1, RANTES, PDGF-BB, transforming growth factor-beta1 (TGF-beta1)]. Moreover, we studied the presence of myofibroblasts, which were identified by the expression of alpha-smooth muscle actin (alpha-SMA), the monocytes/macrophages (CD68-positive cells), and T-cell infiltration (CD4+ and CD8+ cells). All of the patients were nephrotic and without treatment at time of the biopsy. **RESULTS:** A strong up-regulation of MCP-1, RANTES, and OPN expression was observed, mainly in tubular epithelial cells, with a significant major intensity in the progressive IMN patients. A strong correlation between the mRNA expression and the corresponding protein was noted. The presence of these chemokines and OPN was associated with interstitial cell infiltration. TGF-beta and PDGF were also up-regulated, mainly in tubular epithelial cells, with a stronger expression in the progressive IMN, and an association with the presence of myofibroblasts was found. **CONCLUSIONS:** Patients with severe proteinuria and progressive IMN have an overexpression in tubular epithelial cells of the chemokines MCP-1, RANTES, and OPN and the profibrogenic cytokines PDGF-BB and TGF-beta. Because this up-regulation was associated with an interstitial accumulation of mononuclear cells and an increase in myofibroblastic activity, it is suggested that those mediators are potential predictors of progression in IMN. Finally, based on experimental data and the findings of this article, we speculate that severe proteinuria is the main factor responsible for the up-regulation of these factors in tubular epithelial cells.

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Expression of embryonic fibronectin isoform EIIIA parallels alpha-smooth muscle actin in maturing and diseased kidney.

Barnes VL, Musa J, Mitchell RJ, Barnes JL.

Department of Medicine, Division of Nephrology, University of Texas Health Science Center, San Antonio, Texas, USA.

In this study we examined if an association exists between expression of an alternatively spliced "embryonic" fibronectin isoform EIIIA (Fn-EIIIA) and alpha-smooth muscle actin (alpha-SMA) in the maturing and adult rat kidney and in two unrelated models of glomerular disease, passive accelerated anti-glomerular basement membrane (GBM) nephritis and Habu venom (HV)-induced proliferative glomerulonephritis, using immunohistochemistry and in situ hybridization. Fn-EIIIA and alpha-SMA proteins were abundantly expressed in mesangium and in periglomerular and peritubular interstitium of 20-day embryonic and 7-day (D-7) postnatal kidneys in regions of tubule and glomerular development. Staining was markedly reduced in these structures in maturing juvenile (D-14) kidney and was largely lost in adult kidney. Expression of Fn-EIIIA and alpha-SMA was reinitiated in the mesangium and the periglomerular and peritubular interstitium in both models and was also observed in glomerular crescents in anti-GBM nephritis. Increased expression of Fn-EIIIA mRNA by in situ hybridization corresponded to the localization of protein staining. Dual labeling experiments verified co-localization of Fn-EIIIA and alpha-SMA, showing a strong correlation of staining between location and staining intensity during kidney development, maturation, and disease. Expression of EIIIA mRNA corresponded to protein expression in developing and diseased kidneys and was lost in adult kidney. These studies show a recapitulation of the co-expression of Fn-EIIIA and alpha-SMA in anti-GBM disease and suggest a functional link for these two proteins.

PMID: 10330455 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Tumor necrosis factor-alpha upregulates the prostaglandin E2 EP1 receptor subtype and the cyclooxygenase-2 isoform in cultured amnion WISH cells.

Spaziani EP, Benoit RR, Tsibris JC, Gould SF, O'Brien WF.

University of South Florida Health Science Center, Department of Obstetrics & Gynecology, Tampa 33612, USA. espazian@com1.med.usf.edu

Recent studies have demonstrated a strong correlation between infection and preterm labor. Preterm delivery is also associated with high levels of cytokines and prostaglandins in amniotic fluid. The purpose of this study was to investigate the effect of tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) on the levels of cyclooxygenase, prostaglandin E2 production (PGE2), and expression of the PGE2 receptor subtype EP1 in amnion WISH cell culture. Amnion WISH cell cultures were incubated in increasing concentrations of TNF-alpha (0-50 ng/ml). Changes in cyclooxygenase and EP1 receptor proteins were evaluated by Western blot analysis. Changes in EP1 mRNA were evaluated by Northern blot, and culture fluid concentrations of PGE2 were estimated by enzyme immunoassay (EIA). EP1 protein ($p<0.01$), EP1 mRNA ($p<0.05$), cyclooxygenase-2 (COX-2) protein ($p<0.001$), and PGE2 concentrations ($p<0.01$) all increased with increasing concentrations of TNF-alpha. Changes in COX-1 protein were not observed following TNF-alpha-incubation. The results suggest that TNF-alpha may play a role in infection-induced preterm labor by its pleiotropic ability to simultaneously stimulate COX-2 activity, PGE2 concentrations, and PGE2 EP1 receptor levels in human amnion.

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Intestinal carbamoyl phosphate synthase I in human and rat. Expression during development shows species differences and mosaic expression in duodenum of both species.

Van Beers EH, Rings EH, Posthuma G, Dingemanse MA, Taminiau JA, Heymans HS, Einerhand AW, Buller HA, Dekker J.

Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, Department Pediatrics, Emma Children's Hospital, Academic Medical Center, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

The clinical importance of carbamoyl phosphate synthase I (CPSI) relates to its capacity to metabolize ammonia, because CPSI deficiencies cause lethal serum ammonia levels. Although some metabolic parameters concerning liver and intestinal CPSI have been reported, the extent to which enterocytes contribute to ammonia conversion remains unclear without a detailed description of its developmental and spatial expression patterns. Therefore, we determined the patterns of enterocytic CPSI mRNA and protein expression in human and rat intestine during embryonic and postnatal development, using in situ hybridization and immunohistochemistry. CPSI protein appeared during human embryogenesis in liver at 31-35 e. d. (embryonic days) before intestine (59 e.d.), whereas in rat CPSI detection in intestine (at 16 e.d.) preceded liver (20 e.d.). During all stages of development there was a good correlation between the expression of CPSI protein and mRNA in the intestinal epithelium. Strikingly, duodenal enterocytes in both species exhibited mosaic CPSI protein expression despite uniform CPSI mRNA expression in the epithelium and the presence of functional mitochondria in all epithelial cells. Unlike rat, CPSI in human embryos was expressed in liver before intestine. Although CPSI was primarily regulated at the transcriptional level, CPSI protein appeared mosaic in the duodenum of both species, possibly due to post-transcriptional regulation.

PMID: 9446830 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Human thyroid carcinoma cell lines and normal thyrocytes: expression and regulation of matrix metalloproteinase-1 and tissue matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor-1 messenger-RNA and protein.

Aust G, Hofmann A, Laue S, Rost A, Kohler T, Scherbaum WA.

Institut of Anatomy, University of Leipzig, Germany.

Matrix metalloproteinase-1 (MMP-1) and tissue matrix metalloproteinase inhibitor 1 (TIMP-1) play an important role in remodeling the extracellular matrix in normal and pathological processes. The effect of phorbol-myristate acetate (PMA), interleukin-1 (IL-1), and tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF-alpha) on MMP-1 and TIMP-1 expression was studied on highly purified thyrocytes and undifferentiated 8505 C, C 643, HTh 74, SW 1736 thyroid carcinoma cells compared with thyroid-derived fibroblasts. Messenger RNA (mRNA) levels were monitored by competitive semiquantitative reverse transcriptase polymerase chain reaction (RT-PCR) after 24 hours. Culture supernatants were assayed for free and/or complexed MMP-1 and TIMP-1 after 48 hours using enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA) systems (detection limit: <2 ng/mL). MMP-1 and TIMP-1 mRNA were present in all cell types, although thyrocytes showed MMP-1 mRNA levels near the detection limit. 8505 C expressed MMP-1 mRNA levels of up to 10(6) times those of the other cells analyzed. PMA and IL-1 increased MMP-1 mRNA in most cell types. TIMP-1 mRNA increased after treatment with PMA in all cells except 8505 C, whereas only slight effects were shown after IL-1 stimulation. MMP-1 protein was undetectable in normal thyrocyte cultures, but was secreted spontaneously by all cell lines ([ng/mL]; C 643: 15+/-7; HTh 74: 81+/-1; SW 1736: 13+/-2; 8505 C: 2097+/-320). There was a strong correlation between levels of MMP-1 mRNA and protein ($r = 0.99$, $p < .0001$). PMA and IL-1 increased MMP-1 secretion in all cell types after 48 hours. Fibroblasts ([ng/mL] 517+/-55) and the cell lines (C 643: 142+/-48; HTh 74: 115+/-13; SW 1736: 202+/-14; 8505C: 120+/-19) secreted TIMP-1 in unstimulated cultures, whereas only a trace amount was detected in thyrocyte cultures, even after PMA treatment. IL-1 upregulated TIMP-1 secretion after 48 hours in SW 1736, HTh 74, and C 643 cells. Our data suggest that in contrast to normal thyrocytes, dedifferentiated thyroid carcinoma cell lines are potential producers of MMP-1 as well as TIMP-1. High MMP-1 or MMP-1/TIMP-1 expression may play a role in tissue invasion of undifferentiated thyroid cancer cells.

PMID: 9349574 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

TNF-alpha and IL-8 are upregulated in the epidermis of normal human skin after UVB exposure: correlation with neutrophil accumulation and E-selectin expression.

Strickland I, Rhodes LE, Flanagan BF, Friedmann PS.

Department of Dermatology, University of Liverpool, United Kingdom.

The in vivo response to ultraviolet B (UVB) radiation in skin is characterized by the accumulation of both mononuclear and polymorphonuclear cells within the dermis and an induction of vascular endothelial adhesion molecules. Epidermal production of cytokines (IL-8 and TNF-alpha) has been strongly implicated in the development of UVB-induced inflammation. In the current study, we examined the time course of IL-8 and TNF-alpha mRNA and protein expression in the epidermis over a 24-h period after in vivo UVB irradiation. Also, the induction of adhesion molecule expression and the accumulation of neutrophils within the dermis were followed. We found constitutive expression of both cytokines (mRNA and protein) in the epidermis of unirradiated skin. IL-8 was rapidly upregulated after irradiation and mRNA and protein increased at 4 h, reaching a maximum between 8 and 24 h. TNF-alpha mRNA and protein was minimally increased by 8 h after UVB irradiation and reached a maximum by 24 h. No significant alteration in ICAM-1 or VCAM-1 expression was observed. E-selectin expression, which was absent from control samples, was increased from 4 h onward and also reached a maximum at 24 h, coinciding with peak neutrophil accumulation. A strong correlation ($r = 0.96$) was found between number of E-selectin-positive vessels and numbers of infiltrating neutrophils at this time. Moreover, because E-selectin expression was increased before any apparent increase in TNF-alpha protein (4 h), TNF-alpha does not appear to be involved in the early induction of the adhesion molecule, but cytokines such as TNF-alpha and IL-8 may act subsequently to augment the inflammatory response.

PMID: 9129230 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Down-regulation of prostate-specific antigen expression by finasteride through inhibition of complex formation between androgen receptor and steroid receptor-binding consensus in the promoter of the PSA gene in LNCaP cells.

Wang LG, Liu XM, Kreis W, Budman DR.

Department of Medicine, New York University, Manhasset 11030, USA.

As a specific competitive inhibitor of 5alpha-reductase, an intracellular enzyme that converts testosterone to dihydrotestosterone, finasteride is being extensively used for the treatment of benign prostatic hyperplasia and in experimental settings for prostate cancer. In this study, we showed that finasteride markedly inhibited prostate-specific antigen (PSA) secretion and expression. The promoter of the PSA gene contains several well-known cis-regulatory elements. Among them, steroid receptor-binding consensus (SRBC) has been identified as a functional androgen-responsive element. Our previous study showed that PSA was not only present in conditioned medium of the PSA-positive LNCaP cells but was also detectable in small amounts in PSA-negative cell lines, PC-3 and DU-145 (L. G. Wang et al., *Oncol. Rep.*, 3: 911-917, 1996). A strong correlation between binding of nuclear factors to SRBC and the level of PSA present in the conditioned medium and cell extracts was found in these three cell lines, whereas no such correlation with binding was obtained using Sp1 oligonucleotide as a probe. Binding of LNCaP cell nuclear proteins to SRBC was diminished when the cells were exposed to 25 microM finasteride, at which concentration 50% of both PSA mRNA and protein were inhibited. As a major component of DNA-protein complexes, the level of androgen receptor was dramatically decreased in the cells treated with finasteride. Our data indicate that inhibition of complex formation between SRBC and nuclear proteins due to the remarkable decrease in the level of androgen receptor plays a key role in the down-regulation of PSA gene expression by finasteride in LNCaP cells.

PMID: 9044850 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Altered levels of scavenging enzymes in embryos subjected to a diabetic environment.

Forsberg H, Borg LA, Cagliero E, Eriksson UJ.

Department of Medical Cell Biology, University of Uppsala, Sweden.

Maternal diabetes during pregnancy is associated with an increased rate of congenital malformations in the offspring. The exact molecular etiology of the disturbed embryogenesis is unknown, but an involvement of radical oxygen species in the teratological process has been suggested. Oxidative damage presupposes an imbalance between the activity of the free oxygen radicals and the antioxidant defence mechanisms on the cellular level. The aim of the present study was to investigate if maternal diabetes *in vivo*, or high glucose *in vitro* alters the expression of the free oxygen radical scavenging enzymes superoxide dismutase (CuZnSOD and MnSOD), catalase and glutathione peroxidase in rat embryos during late organogenesis. We studied offspring of normal and diabetic rats on gestational days 11 and 12, and also evaluated day-11 embryos after a 48 hour culture period in 10 mM or 50 mM glucose concentration. Both maternal diabetes and high glucose culture caused growth retardation and increased rate of congenital malformations in the embryos. The CuZnSOD and MnSOD enzymes were expressed on gestational day 11 and both CuZnSOD, MnSOD and catalase were expressed on day 12 with increased concentrations of MnSOD transcripts when challenged by a diabetic milieu. There was a good correlation between mRNA, protein, and activity levels, suggesting that the regulation of these enzymes occurs primarily at the pretranslational level. Maternal diabetes *in vivo* and high glucose concentration *in vitro* induced increased MnSOD expression, concomitant with increased total SOD activity, and a tentative decrease in catalase expression and activity in the embryos. These findings support the notion of enhanced oxidative stress in the embryo as an etiologic agent in diabetic teratogenesis.

PMID: 8804988 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Oxytocin receptors in bovine cervix: distribution and gene expression during the estrous cycle.

Fuchs AR, Ivell R, Fields PA, Chang SM, Fields MJ.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, New York 10021, USA.

Oxytocin (OT) receptor (OTR) concentrations were determined in the cervix of nonpregnant cows on cycle Days 0, 3, 7-8, 17, and 19 (n = 3-4 cows each day); [3H]OT was used as the labeled ligand. Mucosal and muscle layers of the cervix were also analyzed separately for both ligand binding and expression of the OTR gene using a newly developed RNase protection assay (RAP). Cellular localization of OTR protein was determined by immunohistochemistry. All regions of cervix from cows at estrus had high concentrations of OTR; in the luteal phase, all were sharply down-regulated. At estrus the mucosal layer had about 30-fold higher concentrations than the muscle layer. OTR mRNA was readily detected by RAP in the mucosa from estrous cows, while much weaker signals were found in the muscle. On Days 7-17, the OTR mRNA signals in both mucosa and muscle were very faint or nondetectable. Thus, there was a good correlation between ligand binding and mRNA expression, which suggests that OTR concentrations are mainly regulated at the transcriptional level. The epithelial cells at the luminal surface of the mucosa were the principal site of immunoreactive OTR; muscle cells showed significantly weaker signals. Previously, OT was found to stimulate prostaglandin (PG) E2 output in vitro in bovine cervical tissues. Since PGE2 is capable of softening the cervix, our findings suggest that OT may have a novel physiological function to cause softening of the bovine cervix mediated by the release of PGE2.

PMID: 8835394 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Involvement of the CCND1 gene in hairy cell leukemia.

de Boer CJ, Kluin-Nelemans JC, Dreef E, Kester MG, Kluin PM, Schuurin E, van Krieken JH.

Department of Pathology, University of Leiden, The Netherlands.

BACKGROUND: Previous results suggested increased mRNA expression of CCND1 in hairy cell leukemia (HCL). The CCND1 gene is involved in the t(11;14)(q13;q32) chromosomal rearrangement, a characteristic abnormality in mantle cell lymphoma (MCL). We and others reported that, in contrast to other B-cell lymphomas, almost all MCL have over-expression of the CCND1 gene with a good correlation between RNA and protein analysis. Recent studies showed that overexpression of the cyclin D1 protein can be easily detected by immunohistochemistry (IHC) on formalin-fixed, paraffin embedded tissues. **PATIENTS AND METHODS:** To investigate whether the CCND1 gene is involved in HCL, we performed IHC on a series of 22 cases using formalin-fixed paraffin embedded splenectomy specimens. For IHC the sections were boiled in citrate buffer. The presence of rearrangements within the BCL-1 locus and the CCND1 gene was analyzed in 13 of 22 cases by Southern blot analysis using all available break-point probes. Expression of CCND1 was analyzed at the mRNA level (Northern blot) and protein level (IHC). **RESULTS:** Overexpression of the cyclin D1 protein using IHC was observed in all cases, with strong expression in 5 cases. Pre-existing B- and T-cell areas of the spleen did not express significant levels of the cyclin D1 protein. Seven of 9 cases analyzed by both IHC and Northern blotting showed overexpression of the CCND1 gene with both methods. No genomic abnormalities were observed in any of the 13 cases studied by Southern blot analysis. Additionally, no 11q13 abnormalities were detected by banding analysis of 19 of 22 cases. **CONCLUSIONS:** The elevated levels of CCND1 mRNA and protein in conjunction with the absence of overt rearrangements within the BCL-1 locus distinguish HCL from MCL and other B-cell malignancies. This suggests that activation of the CCND1 gene in HCL is due to mechanisms other than chromosomal rearrangement.

PMID: 8740788 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Malignant transformation of the human endometrium is associated with overexpression of lactoferrin messenger RNA and protein.

Walmer DK, Padin CJ, Wrona MA, Healy BE, Bentley RC, Tsao MS, Kohler MF, McLachlan JA, Gray KD.

Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Duke University Medical Center, Durham, North Carolina 27710.

In the mouse uterus, lactoferrin is a major estrogen-inducible uterine secretory protein, and its expression correlates directly with the period of peak epithelial cell proliferation. In this study, we examine the expression of lactoferrin mRNA and protein in human endometrium, endometrial hyperplasias, and adenocarcinomas using immunohistochemistry, Western immunoblotting, and Northern and in situ RNA hybridization techniques. Our results reveal that lactoferrin is expressed in normal cycling endometrium by a restricted number of glandular epithelial cells located deep in the zona basalis. Two thirds (8 of 12) of the endometrial adenocarcinomas examined overexpress lactoferrin. This tumor-associated increase in lactoferrin expression includes an elevation in the mRNA and protein of individual cells and an increase in the number of cells expressing the protein. In comparison, only 1 of the 10 endometrial hyperplasia specimens examined demonstrates an increase in lactoferrin. We also observe distinct cytoplasmic and nuclear immunostaining patterns under different fixation conditions in both normal and malignant epithelial cells, similar to those previously reported in the mouse reproductive tract. Serial sections of malignant specimens show a good correlation between the localization of lactoferrin mRNA and protein in individual epithelial cells by in situ RNA hybridization and immunohistochemistry. Although the degree of lactoferrin expression in the adenocarcinomas did not correlate with the tumor stage, grade, or depth of invasion in these 12 patients, there was a striking inverse correlation between the presence of progesterone receptors and lactoferrin in all 8 lactoferrin-positive adenocarcinomas. In summary, lactoferrin is expressed in a region of normal endometrium known as the zona basalis which is not shed with menstruation and is frequently overexpressed by progesterone receptor-negative cells in endometrial adenocarcinomas.

PMID: 7867003 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Myotonic dystrophy: an unstable CTG repeat in a protein kinase gene.

Timchenko L, Monckton DG, Caskey CT.

Department of Molecular and Human Genetics, Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Medical Center, Houston 77030, USA.

Myotonic dystrophy (DM) is caused by the amplification of CTG repeats in the 3' untranslated region of a gene encoding a protein homologous to serine/threonine protein kinases. In DM patients the CTG repeats are extremely unstable, varying in length from patient to patient and generally increasing in length in successive generations. There is a strong correlation between the size of the repeats and the age of onset and severity of the disease. The molecular basis of the effect of the CTG expansion on the development of the DM phenotype continues to be investigated. The first working hypothesis of the molecular mechanism of DM was a reduction in steady-state myotonin-protein kinase (Mt-PK) mRNA and protein levels. However, although the consensus finding is that the Mt PK mRNA and protein levels are decreased in DM patients, it is still not clear if this reduction leads directly to the DM phenotype. In this short review we discuss the molecular aspects of CTG instability and the expression of the myotonin-protein kinase gene in normal and DM populations.

Publication Types:

- [Review](#)
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Regulation of cytochrome P4501A1 in teleosts: sustained induction of CYP1A1 mRNA, protein, and catalytic activity by 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzofuran in the marine fish *Stenotomus chrysops*.

Hahn ME, Stegeman JJ.

Biology Department, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, Massachusetts 02543.

Cytochrome P4501A1 (CYP1A1) is known to play important roles in the activation and detoxification of carcinogens and other toxicants in vertebrate animals, including fish. Although extensively studied in mammalian systems, the regulation of CYP1A forms in other vertebrates is less well understood. We examined the time course and dose-response relationships for induction of CYP1A1 mRNA, protein, and catalytic activity by 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzofuran (TCDF) in the marine fish *Stenotomus chrysops* (scup). The time course of CYP1A1 induction was determined following a single ip dose (10 nmol/kg) of 2,3,7,8-TCDF. Hepatic ethoxyresorufin O-deethylase activity was increased after 1 day, reached a maximum by 8 days, and was still elevated 14 days after treatment. The content of immunodetectable CYP1A1 protein in liver was elevated on Day 1 and continued to increase through 14 days. CYP1A1 protein content was also strongly induced in heart and gill beginning at 2 days after treatment and extending through Day 14. Hepatic CYP1A1 mRNA was strongly induced by 1 day after dosing and remained elevated through 14 days. The sustained induction of CYP1A1 mRNA by 2,3,7,8-TCDF contrasts with the transient induction seen previously in fish treated with nonhalogenated inducers and most likely reflects differences in persistence of the inducers. Dose-response studies indicated that induction of CYP1A1 mRNA, protein, and catalytic activity occurred following doses of 2,3,7,8-TCDF as low as 0.4 nmol/kg (120 ng/kg), within the range of whole-body contents of this congener measured in fish from contaminated environments. The estimated dose producing half-maximal CYP1A1 induction in scup was approximately 2-10 nmol/kg, suggesting that the sensitivity of these fish to induction may be as great as or greater than that of rats. In contrast to previous results obtained with 3,3',4,4'-tetrachlorobiphenyl (TCB) and beta-naphthoflavone, which appear to inhibit or inactivate CYP1A1 in fish and other vertebrates, there was a good correlation among levels of CYP1A1 mRNA, protein, and catalytic activity in individual fish following various doses of 2,3,7,8-TCDF. The difference in response to 2,3,7,8-TCDF versus 3,3',4,4'-TCB may reflect differences in the inducing potencies of the two compounds relative to their similar potencies as inhibitors of CYP1A1 catalytic activity. In additional studies to evaluate structure-activity relationships for CYP1A1 induction by chlorinated dibenzofurans in fish, scup were treated with 2,3,6,8-tetrachlorodibenzofuran (2,3,6,8-TCDF). At 10 or 50 nmol/kg, 2,3,6,8-TCDF was inactive as an inducer of CYP1A1 mRNA, protein, or catalytic activity.(ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 400 WORDS)

PMID: 8048062 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Elevation of topoisomerase I messenger RNA, protein, and catalytic activity in human tumors: demonstration of tumor-type specificity and implications for cancer chemotherapy.

Husain I, Mohler JL, Seigler HF, Besterman JM.

Department of Cell Biology, Glaxo Inc. Research Institute, Research Triangle Park, North Carolina 27709.

Topoisomerase I has been identified as an intracellular target of camptothecin, a plant alkaloid with anticancer activity. Various lines of evidence suggest that the sensitivity of cells to this drug is directly related to the topoisomerase I content. In humans, the levels of topoisomerase I have been shown to be elevated in colorectal tumors, compared to normal colon mucosa. The aim of our study was to determine whether (a) topoisomerase I levels are elevated in other solid tumors, (b) the elevated enzyme is catalytically active in these tumors, and (c) the increase in topoisomerase I levels in colorectal tumors is a result of increased transcription or translation. Topoisomerase I levels were quantitated in crude extracts from colorectal, prostate, and kidney tumors and their matched normal counterparts by Western blotting and by direct determination of catalytic activity, and mRNA levels were determined by Northern blotting. By Western blotting, colorectal tumors showed 5-35-fold increases in topoisomerase I levels, compared to their normal colon mucosa. In the case of prostate tumors, the increase was 2-10-fold, compared with benign hyperplastic prostate tissue from the same patients. However, no difference was observed in topoisomerase I levels in kidney tumors, compared to their normal counterparts. The catalytic activity of topoisomerase I was determined by a quantitative ³²P-transfer assay in crude homogenates, without isolating nuclei. Colorectal and prostate tumors exhibited 11-40- and 4-26-fold increases, respectively, in catalytic activity. However, kidney tumors did not show any alteration in catalytic activity, compared to their normal matched samples. Thus, for all three tumor types there was a good correlation between enzyme levels and catalytic activity. Finally, colorectal tumors were analyzed for steady state mRNA levels. A 2-33-fold increase in mRNA levels was found in colorectal tumors, compared to normal colon mucosa. These results suggest that alterations in topoisomerase I expression in humans are tumor type specific and that the increase in topoisomerase I levels results from either increased transcription of the topoisomerase I gene or increased mRNA stability.

PMID: 8275492 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Expression of calcyclin in human melanocytic lesions.

Weterman MA, van Muijen GN, Bloemers HP, Ruiter DJ.

Department of Biochemistry, University of Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

When comparing two subsequent stages of melanocytic tumor progression we identified calcyclin as a new potential progression marker, the expression of which was correlated with metastatic behavior of various human melanoma cell lines in nude mice. In this study, we describe a good correlation between RNA and protein levels in the xenografts of these cell lines and extended these experiments to a panel of 120 routinely processed human melanocytic cutaneous lesions. Northern blot analysis demonstrated that calcyclin RNA expression was elevated in melanoma metastases as compared to several types of nevocellular nevi. Calcyclin staining using a specific polyclonal antiserum showed a more complex pattern. A stronger staining in a higher percentage of positive cells was observed in thick primary melanoma (≥ 1.5 mm) as compared to thin primary melanoma (< 1.5 mm). Calcyclin expression was also present in a higher percentage of cells showing a stronger staining in melanomas with higher Clark levels ($> II$) corresponding to the vertical growth phase of primary melanomas. Protein expression in nevocellular nevi was confined to the dermal part and was highest in the lower parts of the dermis. Remarkably, dysplastic nevi (atypical moles), potential precursors of melanoma, did not show any expression at all, either in junctional or dermal parts. Confinement of the expression to the dermal part of nondysplastic nevi and primary melanomas may reflect interactions with the microenvironment of the reticular dermis that occurs with vertical growth.

PMID: 8261423 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

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Induction of the estrogen receptor by growth hormone and glucocorticoid substitution in primary cultures of rat hepatocytes.

Freyschuss B, Stavreus-Evers A, Sahlin L, Eriksson H.

Department of Reproductive Endocrinology, Karolinska Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden.

Hepatic estrogen receptors (ER) mediate estrogenic effects on mammalian liver metabolism and are thereby involved in the regulation of important physiological/pathological processes, such as coagulation, atherosclerosis, and hypertension. The regulation of the formation of the ER in primary cultures of rat hepatocytes was studied by assaying ER and ER mRNA under different endocrine conditions. The ER concentration was measured using two different methods, a ligand-binding technique and an ER enzyme immunoassay. The results obtained by the two methods showed good correlation, and linear regression analysis gave a correlation coefficient of 0.95. ER concentrations fell to low steady state levels within 16 h after establishing the cell culture and remained low in the absence of hormonal substitution. Upon medium supplementation with pituitary GH and the glucocorticoid dexamethasone (DEX) in combination, the ER concentration increased 6-fold from 4.2 ± 1.0 to 25.8 ± 7.0 fmol/mg cytosolic protein. ER mRNA was measured by solution hybridization. Substitution with GH and DEX in combination increased ER mRNA to $210 \pm 14\%$ of control levels. No effect on ER mRNA stability was seen after hormone treatment. It is concluded that the regulatory effects of GH and DEX on the hepatic ER in this in vitro system are very similar to the effects of these hormones under in vivo conditions. The inducible expression of the ER has never before, to our knowledge, been demonstrated in any mammalian liver cell culture system.

PMID: 8404593 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Developmental regulation of acidic fibroblast growth factor (aFGF) expression in bovine retina.

Jacquemin E, Jonet L, Oliver L, Bugra K, Laurent M, Courtois Y, Jeanny JC.

Unite de Recherches Gerontologiques, U. 118 INSERM, Paris, France.

Acidic fibroblast growth factor (aFGF) is a signalling molecule implicated in a wide variety of biological processes such as cell growth, differentiation and survival. It has been purified from bovine retina. The present study was carried out to detect which cells in the bovine retina expressed aFGF at the different stages of embryonic and post-natal development. The specific aFGF mRNA and protein were detected by in situ hybridization employing riboprobes and immunocytochemistry using affinity purified polyclonal human recombinant aFGF antibodies respectively. No signal was detected by either technique until 4-5 months and then there was progressive expression of aFGF with terminal morphogenesis of the retina. By 8-9 months of embryonic development, nuclei of the 3 neuronal layers (ganglion cell layer, inner and outer nuclear layers) were all uniformly and intensely labeled. A slight labeling of the pigmented epithelium of the retina was also visible throughout development and maturation. These results showed a good correlation between message and protein expression in these cell types. In contrast, glial cells in the nerve fiber layer and vascular endothelial cells displayed a nuclear immunostaining for the protein in the absence of message. These data suggest that aFGF plays a role in the late steps of retinal differentiation by autocrine and paracrine mechanisms.

PMID: 7507349 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Severely decreased MARCKS expression correlates with ras reversion but not with mitogenic responsiveness.

Wojtaszek PA, Stumpo DJ, Blackshear PJ, Macara IG.

Department of Pathology, University of Vermont College of Medicine, Burlington 05405.

Phorbol ester-inducible phosphorylation of MARCKS, the '80-kDa' substrate of protein kinase C, was undetectable in several phenotypically dominant, non-transformed revertants independently derived from the ras-transformed cell line NIH3T3 DT-ras. Extremely low expression of MARCKS protein accounted for this apparent lack of phosphorylation. MARCKS-encoding mRNA levels were correspondingly decreased relative to normal and ras-transformed cells in all four ras revertant cell lines studied: C-11 and F-2, derived by 5-azacytidine treatment and selection with ouabain; CHP 9CJ, derived by ethylmethane sulfonate mutagenesis and selection with cis-hydroxy-L-proline; and 12-V3, derived by transfection with the human Krev-1 gene. However, re-expression of MARCKS after transfection of a cloned MARCKS cDNA into the C-11 ras revertant cells was not sufficient to induce retransformation. In fact, no significant difference in sensitivity to mitogenic stimulation by phorbol esters was observed among several cell lines expressing widely varying levels of MARCKS. This evidence argues against a direct role for MARCKS in mitogenic signaling. However, the strong correlation between attenuation of MARCKS expression and phenotypically dominant ras reversion suggests that a common negative regulatory mechanism might be responsible for both effects, presenting a potentially useful strategy for identifying factors involved in transducing the ras signal.

PMID: 8437859 [PubMed - indexed for MEDLINE]

Induction of class 3 aldehyde dehydrogenase in the mouse hepatoma cell line Hepa-1 by various chemicals.

Torronen R, Korkalainen M, Karenlampi SO.

Department of Physiology, University of Kuopio, Finland.

The mouse hepatoma cell line Hepa-1 was shown to express an aldehyde dehydrogenase (ALDH) isozyme which was inducible by TCDD and carcinogenic polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. The induced activity could be detected with benzaldehyde as substrate and NADP as cofactor (B/NADP ALDH). As compared with rat liver and hepatoma cell lines, the response was moderate (maximally 5-fold). There was an apparent correlation between this specific form of ALDH and aryl hydrocarbon hydroxylase (AHH) in the Hepa-1 wild-type cell line--in terms of inducibility by several chemicals. However, the magnitude of the response was clearly smaller for ALDH than for AHH. Southern blot analysis showed that a homologous gene (class 3 ALDH) was present in the rat and mouse genome. The gene was also expressed in Hepa-1 and there was a good correlation between the increase of class 3 ALDH-specific mRNA and B/NADP ALDH enzyme activity after exposure of the Hepa-1 cells to TCDD. It is concluded that class 3 ALDH is inducible by certain chemicals in the mouse hepatoma cell line, although the respective enzyme is not inducible in mouse liver in vivo.

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Mammary-derived growth inhibitor protein and messenger ribonucleic acid concentrations in different physiological states of the gland.

Politis I, Gorewit RC, Muller T, Grosse R.

Department of Animal Science, Cornell University, Ithaca 14853.

Expression of mammary-derived growth inhibitor in tissue from lactating and involuting bovine mammary glands was investigated. Seventeen lactating, pregnant (220 to 272 d in gestation) cows were divided in two groups of 8 and 9 cows each. Cows of the first group were slaughtered while in lactation. Cows of the second group (9 involuting cows) were slaughtered at 13 to 52 d following sudden cessation of milking. High concentrations of mammary-derived growth inhibitor (.63% of the total protein) were detected in mammary tissue of lactating cows. Mammary-derived growth inhibitor (less than .10% of the total protein) was dramatically reduced during most of the involution period (13 to 45 d following cessation of milking). Mammary-derived growth inhibitor was again detected (.28% of the total protein) during the last stage of the involution (46 to 53 d after cessation of milking), which coincided with colostrum formation. When steady state concentrations of mammary-derived growth inhibitor mRNA were examined, the results obtained mirrored those obtained at the protein concentration. These data suggest that regulation of mammary-derived growth inhibitor occurs via modulation of the steady state concentration of its mRNA. Furthermore, there is a strong correlation between mammary-derived growth inhibitor expression and lactation in dairy cows.

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Neu oncogene expression in ovarian tumors: a quantitative study.

Huettner PC, Carney WP, Naber SP, DeLellis RA, Membrino W, Wolfe HJ.

Department of Pathology, Tufts University School of Medicine, Massachusetts.

We studied neu mRNA expression by slot blot analysis and protein product expression by capture ELISA and immunohistochemistry in 57 primary and metastatic ovarian neoplasms, two paraovarian leiomyosarcomas, and eight normal ovaries. Some 61% of ovarian tumors but none of the paraovarian neoplasms or normal ovaries overexpressed neu mRNA. A total of 96% of the ovarian tumors that overexpressed neu were of epithelial type. Epithelial ovarian tumors had significantly higher amounts of the neu oncogene product as determined by capture ELISA than either germ cell and stromal tumors or normal ovaries (p less than 0.025). Different subtypes of ovarian carcinomas had significantly different amounts of neu oncogene product as measured by capture ELISA; endometrioid tumors had the highest, and poorly differentiated carcinomas not otherwise specified had the lowest (p less than 0.025). ELISA values, mRNA overexpression, and immunohistochemical staining intensity did not correlate with stage at diagnosis or architectural or nuclear grade in ovarian tumors. We conclude that capture ELISA is a simple, effective way to measure the neu oncogene protein product and that there is a good correlation between ELISA levels and immunohistochemical staining intensity. However, ELISA values did not correlate with stage or histologic prognostic factors in ovarian neoplasms.

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Oncogene and growth factor expression in ovarian cancer.

Kommoss F, Bauknecht T, Birmelin G, Kohler M, Tesch H, Pfeleiderer A.

Department of Gynaecology, Albert-Ludwig University, Freiburg, Germany.

The varying tumor-biological behavior of ovarian carcinomas probably influences both their operability and response to chemotherapy, which are the most relevant prognostic factors. The phenotype of different ovarian carcinomas is obviously associated with an activation of the EGF/TGF-alpha signal pathway, including c-myc and c-jun expression. Analysis of EGF-R, TGF-alpha, c-myc and c-jun expression in 33 stage III/IV, and 2 stage I/II ovarian carcinomas with biochemical, molecular-chemical and immunohistochemical methods showed a correlation between the mRNA and protein levels of EGF-R and TGF-alpha for tumors with low or high expressing rates. However, the concentration of measurable free EGF-Rs seems to depend on the amount of TGF-alpha expression by the tumors. The EGF-R binding ligand TGF-alpha is produced by epithelial tumor cells; stromal cells are usually TGF-alpha-negative, as shown by immunohistochemistry. High expression rates of EGF-R, TGF-alpha and c-myc were detected in 6, 7, and 10 out of 35 ovarian carcinomas, respectively. C-jun mRNA was detected in 18/19 cases studied. Non-malignant tissues originating from myometrium or ovary expressed no (or only small amounts of) EGF-R or TGF-alpha mRNA, whereas a high c-myc expression was found in 1/7 normal myometria, and in 2/5 normal ovaries. There was no strong correlation between EGF-R/TGF-alpha and c-myc/c-jun expression.(ABSTRACT TRUNCATED AT 250 WORDS)

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